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Special delivery: Military to produce MRE pizzas

By SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

Troops will soon get pizza in places where delivery drivers don't go.

The military is preparing to produce Meals, Ready to Eat pizzas that are engi-

neered to stay fresh for three years in a pouch. Troops could taste their first pizza MREs in the field by next year, Army officials say.

These don't compare to the freshly made pizzas at an Italian restaurant, but they stack up well to store-bought pizzas, said

MRE pizzas don't compare to the freshly made pizzas at an Italian restaurant, but stack up well to frozen store-bought pizzas.

David Accetta, spokesman for Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center in Massachusetts.

"I think it's better than frozen pizza," he said.

The pizzas come with only one topping

SEE PIZZA ON PAGE 5

Out with a bang

Closing ceremony brings end to heavily political Winter Games » Back page



Fireworks explode near the Olympic cauldron at the end of the 2018 Winter Olympics closing ceremony in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on Sunday.

FLOREN CHOBLEY/AP

Amid sanctions, N. Korea open to meeting with US

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea expressed a willingness to hold talks with the United States, boosting hopes that the recent thaw in tensions on the divided peninsula may extend beyond the Olympics.

The White House responded that it will see if the message "represents the first steps along the path to denuclearization."

It was too soon to know if the apparent olive branch would lead to a breakthrough in the standoff over the growing threat from the North.

The communist state has consistently maintained that it's nuclear weapons program is not up for negotiation.

Just two days ago, the U.S. Treasury Department slapped a tough new round of sanctions on several companies and ships accused of illicit trading with the North. The communist state decried the new sanctions and said that any blockade would be considered an "act of war."

But the offer was a diplomatic victory for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has said he hoped the detente fostered by the Winter Games would lead to broader talks including Washington and Pyongyang.

SEE OPEN ON PAGE 14

PACIFIC

Amphibious squadron leaders relieved of duties

By TYLER HLAVAC

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The commander and deputy commander of the Navy's Japan-based amphibious squadron have been relieved of their duties, the Navy announced Sunday.

Amphibious Squadron 11 commander Capt. George Doyon was relieved for mishandling com-

plaints from his staff about harassment from the unit's deputy commander, Capt. Jeff Oakley, over a yearlong period, a statement from the service said.

Oakley was relieved from his position for "substandard performance of duty."

Both officers were relieved Saturday by Expeditionary Strike Group 7 commander Rear Adm. Brad Cooper and have been tem-

porarily assigned to other jobs at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, the statement added.

Doyon took charge of the unit in January 2017 after serving as its deputy commander.

Seventh Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Clay Doss told Stars and Stripes the harassment claims against Oakley were not sexual in nature.

"Most of our commanders complete their tours with distinction,

but all are expected to meet high standards of leadership, reliability and responsibility, and the Navy holds them accountable when those standards aren't met," he said.

Capt. Ed Thompson, who led the unit before Doyon, has temporarily reassumed commander duties. Capt. Marc Boran, former deputy chief of staff for operations and plans at ESG-7, is serving as

temporary deputy commander.

Headquartered at Sasebo, Amphibious Squadron 11 is responsible for the Navy's forward-deployed amphibious ships, including the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay and the dock landing ships USS Germantown and USS Ashland.

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3ID soldiers deploy to Korea for first time since the war

By MARCUS FICHTL

Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The 3rd Infantry Division is back on the Korean Peninsula for the first time since the Korean War.

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Stewart, Ga., began a nine-month rotation Friday by unfurling its unit colors at the Eighth Army's new headquarters south of Seoul.

The "Raider Brigade" replaces soldiers from the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, out of Fort Hood, Texas.

"This is the first time soldiers wearing the 3ID patch have served (on the peninsula) since fighting in the Korean War," Raider Brigade commander Col. Mike Adams said at the ceremony.

The soldiers will continue the division's commitment to defense of a country that's technically still fighting the Korean War, Adams said. Hostilities ended in 1953 with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

"We will fulfill the requirement for [the armored brigade combat team] to support 2nd Infantry Division in maintaining North Korean aggression and maintain-

ing peace," he said.

The new arrivals make up the fifth rotational brigade to come to South Korea since 2ID's 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team — known as the "Iron Brigade" — inactivated in July 2015. The unit was the last permanently stationed brigade combat team on the peninsula.

2ID commander Maj. Gen. Scott McKean told the Raider Brigade that "the armored brigade combat team is the most lethal formation in our Army" and that their unit is "ready to take the mantle of responsibility."

The brigade arrived during a period of relative calm as North and South Korea and the U.S. competed in the Winter Olympics at Pyeongchang. However, tensions are expected to rise once U.S. and South Korean forces resume peninsula-wide exercises that were postponed by the games.

Next Wednesday, another rotational unit — the 2nd Battalion, 20th Field Artillery Regiment — will arrive in South Korea to replace the 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery regiment. Both units hail from Fort Sill, Okla., Eighth Army officials said in an email.

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Pak Chin U/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division colors are uncased at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Friday.

TODAY

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MILITARY



6th Fleet sailors take to the cold during Arctic exercise



An explosive ordnance disposal team goes on a cold-weather mountain patrol on Feb. 1.

Above: Sailors on an ordnance disposal team practice cold-water scuba diving to test advanced underwater demolition procedures as part of the multinational Exercise Arctic Specialist in Ramsund, Norway, on Feb. 5. During the annual exercise, hosted by the Royal Norwegian Navy, teams of sailors from the 6th Fleet — based in the warmer environs of Rota, Spain — practiced recovering and neutralizing explosive devices. Sailors dove in near-freezing waters and conducted patrols in snow-capped passes and gorges to train in anti-explosive measures.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy



Above: Teams from the United States and Norway practice mine countermeasures on Feb. 7. Left, technicians practice countermeasures for explosive devices.

MILITARY

Military's ability to pursue old sexual assaults imperiled

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

A ruling by a U.S. military appeals court jeopardizes the Pentagon's ability to prosecute sexual assaults committed before 2006, just as more people are coming forward with years-old allegations as part of the #MeToo movement.

The ruling involves the case of Air Force Lt. Col. Edzel Mangahas, who in 2015 was accused of assaulting a woman in 1997 when they were both cadets at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces dismissed a rape charge against Mangahas this month, saying a five-year statute of limitations applied in the case.

The government argued that anyone facing a rape allegation technically could have been sentenced to death under criteria the military used in cases of rape between the fall of 1986 and the fall of 2006. A death sentence in the military has not occurred in decades, but applying that standard to the case as though it were a possibility would have left the statute of limitations open.

The ruling will make it more difficult to charge suspects in similar cases from that time period, military justice experts said.

The decision is a "pretty dramatic reversal of precedent," said Zachary Spilman, who left the active-duty Marine Corps in 2014 and now writes about military appeals cases on the website CAAFlog. It's uncertain how the case could affect others cases in which people have been convicted on rape charges for actions in the 20-year window, he said.

"The bottom-line answer that I can give you is that prosecuting old sexual assault cases just got much harder, if not impossible," Spilman said.

Legislation passed by Congress

in 2006 explicitly says rape cases have no statute of limitations under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, but cases before then are subject to laws at the time of the crime.

Cases before 1986 had a five-year statute of limitations. But from 1986 to 2006, the military used more ambiguous criteria that said any offense punishable by death, including rape, "may be tried and punished at any time without limitation."

The new ruling was issued as the Army was preparing for a court-martial in a highly unusual case in which the military recalled a retired senior officer to face charges years after his retirement.

Maj. Gen. James Grazioplene, who retired in 2005, is accused of repeatedly sexually assaulting a girl between 1983 and 1989. The accusations first came to the Army's attention in 2015, when the alleged victim, now 46, reported them.

After reviewing the evidence, Maj. Gen. Michael Howard, who is overseeing the case, decided in December that the case should proceed to court-martial. Grazioplene's defense lawyers have challenged that, arguing in a motion for dismissal that none of the allegations fall within the past five years.

The defense team also noted that earlier this month, the appeals court cited a 1977 Supreme Court case, *Coker v. Georgia*, that held that a death sentence is a "grossly disproportionate and excessive punishment for the crime of rape and is therefore forbidden by the Eighth Amendment as cruel and unusual punishment."

The prosecution countered with a Feb. 14 motion that argued the court should wait until a ruling in the Mangahas case, which it said "frustrates the intent of Congress by limiting the prosecution of crimes 'punishable by death.'"



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers and their families prepare to pick up trash at Grafenwoehr Training Area, Germany, on Saturday.

Vets, soldiers, families join in cleanup

By MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Veterans, soldiers and families braved the cold weather to better their community when VFW Tower Post 10692 organized a group cleanup effort on base Saturday.

Almost 90 volunteers from units on base, JROTC, the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and others groups donated their time to pick up trash around Grafenwoehr and clean up the local recycling center.

Trash is a problem at Grafenwoehr even though the facility has won awards for being environmentally friendly, said VFW post Commander James Joyce.

"We just wanted an event that would bring together all the different organizations here, to do something good for the community," Joyce said. "In the States, VFWs are more confined to what they can do, and they're more exclusive to being only for vets. But here, we try to bring together families and give them the opportunity to volunteer and do something good."

After the cleanup, the VFW grilled lunch for all the volunteers.

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VFW Tower Post Commander James Joyce, right, and James Federline, with the Knights of Columbus, talk as they pick up trash.

Marine general is chastised as sergeant's conviction is overturned

By CARL PRINE

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A military court has reprimanded a Marine two-star general at Camp Pendleton, Calif., for unlawfully meddling in a court-martial case against a non-commissioned officer accused of abusing his troops.

The U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals in Washington overturned the court-martial conviction of Sgt. Jaime Ortiz. The court found that Maj. Gen. Eric M. Smith went too far in his crackdown against hazing in the 1st Marine Division.

Prosecutors had alleged that

Ortiz conspired with fellow non-commissioned officers to haze five junior Marines by forcing them to get special haircuts and ordering them to perform excessive physical exercises. Ortiz was also accused of punching two of them in the chest, according to court filings.

The Marines have tried to eradicate hazing for five years.

In 2013, Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos issued an anti-hazing order that was designed to track and stop abuse throughout the Corps.

Smith took command of 1st Marine Division June 22. Echoing Amos, one of his first acts was is-

suing a policy statement on hazing that called on his commanders to involuntarily discharge anyone found to have abused lower-ranking troops.

On July 11 and 12, Smith sent a series of emails to commanders and others, urging them to take immediate actions to curtail hazing. Smith noted that he'd reviewed five hazing allegations during the week and called the abuse "the single biggest issue I have, and that word does not seem to be getting down to all hands."

Smith urged his commanders to take action against "a few salty" lance corporals "who think they are in charge."

Ortiz was arrested on July 13 in one of those cases, and Smith convened a court-martial against him on Aug. 15. Ortiz's attorneys immediately filed a motion to quash the case, arguing that the general had strayed from unbiased justice to become a "direct accuser."

Under military law, generals are barred from convening trials against Marines if they have a direct, personal stake in the case.

The trial judge agreed with the defense attorneys and moved to vacate Ortiz's case without prejudice, which means that military prosecutors can try him again.

The judge also disqualified Smith from any future role in Ortiz's case, meaning another general in a different command would have to start the entire process over if the Marine Corps still wanted to prosecute the sergeant.

Prosecutors appealed the decision on Nov. 7.

Smith declined to be interviewed, but his spokesman said his division would continue to go after Marines alleged to have abused their troops.

Military prosecutors have not determined whether they will continue to pursue the case against Ortiz.

MILITARY

VA chief ready to move forward

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — David Shulkin, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, hasn't had an easy week.

Or at least that's how he summed up the past 10 days — rife with ethical scandal and infighting at the VA and marked by the departure of his chief of staff — when speaking Sunday morning to hundreds of veterans at the annual Disabled American Veterans conference in Arlington, Va.

"So, let me get right to it. This has not been the easiest past week or so for me or my wife," Shulkin opened, drawing laughs from the crowd. "We got a good sense of what Washington is all about."

Shulkin learned a lesson in Washington politics, he said, and he's trying to move past what he described as distractions.

"It's my job to keep pushing for what's right for the veterans and what's consistent with the president's agenda," Shulkin told Stars and Stripes after his speech. "I don't want to slow down. I think there are efforts to try to politicize what we're doing, and I'm trying to stay focused on the road ahead and keep us going."

On Feb. 14, VA Inspector General Michael Missal released findings that Shulkin improperly accepted tickets to a tennis match at Wimbledon in 2015 and his wife on an official trip to Europe and spent much of the taxpayer-funded trip sightseeing. Chief of Staff Vivieca Wright Simpson, who was found to have misled an ethics official into approving travel expenses for Shulkin's wife, announced her retirement amid the fallout. One congressman has called for Shulkin to immediately resign.

Days after the release of the IG report, divisions were publicly revealed between Shulkin and one White House adviser, Jake

Leinmugel, who wrote an email in December expressing frustration and distrust in Shulkin and making known his desire to eventually oust him.

Sunday marked Shulkin's first public address to veterans since the turmoil began, and he was met by a friendly audience. They applauded as he took the stage, and the acclaim continued throughout his speech and after.

"Secretary Shulkin took on one of the toughest and most important jobs in Washington," said Danny Oliver, president of the DAV Commander and Adjutants Association, who introduced Shulkin. "In his confirmation hearing, he pledged to always protect the interests of veterans, which has proven critical as major reforms already underway in the VA system continue."

Shulkin has enjoyed the support of DAV and other major veterans organizations that rallied behind him following the release of the IG report and revelations of rancor among VA leadership. The group said they were satisfied with Shulkin repaying the U.S. Treasury for his wife's travel expenses. They feared any potential replacement for Shulkin would work to push veterans' medical care into the private sector and dismantle the VA system — something Shulkin has pledged to protect against.

The VA secretary also received little criticism when testifying before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs one day after the IG report was released. At the hearing, some lawmakers came to his defense.

The White House has yet to issue official, clear support for Shulkin to remain at the VA, an agency at which President Donald Trump promised to root out corruption.

But last week, White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee

Sanders said there was "no reason to believe" Shulkin had lost Trump's confidence. Shulkin told Stars and Stripes on Sunday that he had the president's backing.

Shulkin gave some indication Sunday of how he planned to move forward. First, he intends to uncover anyone in VA headquarters with "subversive ideas" and remove them.

"My goal is to get us past this distraction and to make sure everybody understands there's only one team," Shulkin said. "People who have subversive ideas or are creating two different agendas don't have a place in the VA, and people have to make a decision whether they're going to be on the team or off the team."

Shulkin would not go into details about any personnel decisions that were made — or could be made — amid the VA infighting.

In a 20-minute speech to the DAV, Shulkin outlined five priorities for the year, the first of which is to legislatively overhaul the Veterans Choice program, which allows veterans to receive medical care in the private sector. Legislation on this has stalled in Congress because of debate over how far veterans' medical care should expand into the private sector.

Shulkin's other priorities were modernizing VA infrastructure and technology, improving timeliness of health care and speeding up veterans' disability claims, refocusing resources on veteran-unique medical issues, such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide prevention.

Shulkin is scheduled to speak again Tuesday morning to hundreds of American Legion members.

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USFJ apologizes after another helicopter flies over a Japanese school

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces Japan has issued an apology after an American military helicopter again flew over the Okinawa elementary school where a window fell from a Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion onto a playground in December.

A helicopter overflew Futema Daini Elementary School, which sits along Marine Corps Air Station Futema's northern fence line, at about 3:30 p.m. Friday, according to a USFJ statement released over the weekend.

"Although U.S. Forces voluntarily ceased flights over the school to the greatest extent possible, a U.S. helicopter inadvertently overflew the school," the statement said.

In the Dec. 13 incident, a window measuring approximately 3 feet by 3 feet inexplicably separated from a Super Stallion and fell onto a sports field at the school. More than 50 students were on the field at the time, and a boy was slightly injured by a pebble that flew up during impact.

A week earlier, workers had discovered a small cylindrical part from a Super Stallion on the roof of Midorigaoka nursery school, which is about 300 meters from Futema.

Staff members and parents from the nursery school traveled to Tokyo earlier this month to complain that helicopters were still flying over their facility.

"Every day, U.S. military helicopters and Ospreys fly over our nursery school," headmaster Takehiro Kamiya told reporters

during a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan on Feb. 14. "There have been no apologies and no explanations of any kind to date."

'Every day, U.S. military helicopters and Ospreys fly over our nursery school.'

Takehiro Kamiya, headmaster, Daini Elementary School

emergency landings of Okinawa-based Marine Corps helicopters.

He also vowed to address the "important" issue of aircraft safety.

During their call, Onodera reportedly asked Mattis — a retired Marine four-star general — to take additional measures to prevent future mishaps.

"USFJ is working closely with Japanese counterparts at all levels to transparently share information as soon as it becomes available," the command said in the statement.

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Pizza: 'Adding to the variety of choices for MREs is an outstanding idea'

FROM FRONT PAGE

— pepperoni — but more varieties will be added as troops weigh in on the kinds they like, he said.

The current generation of MREs must run out before the next generation, which includes the pizzas, can be distributed, Accetta said. He estimated the changeover will happen by 2019.

Some initial reactions were very positive.

"I'm all about it. Adding to the variety of choices for MREs is an outstanding idea, especially if it's a good choice," said Capt. Orlando Howard with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team deployed to Europe. "It would be like adding flavor and meat to the wheat bread that already comes in the MRE, and that's a great idea."

"When you're away from home, it's nice when you're able to have food that you would typically enjoy if you were home," he added. "I think it makes things feel a little easier, and home feel a little less distant."

Army researchers spent years



Courtesy of Natick Soldier Research, Development & Engineering Center

trying to develop a pizza without a lot of preservatives that would look and taste fresh after being stored for years in warm temperatures. The key is to maintain the pizza's pH balance, prevent oxygenation and suppress moisture, Accetta said.

Researchers employed molecular science to create dough-drying methods that led to "shelf-stable bread," which is used in MRE pocket sandwiches and now the pizzas, Accetta said.

Pizzas and pocket sandwiches

are among the evolving "first-strike meals" that are lighter and more compact than previous MREs, making them easier for soldiers on the battlefield to carry in rucksacks.

As with all new MREs, professional taste-testers sampled the prototypes to gauge the flavor, texture and how the pizzas feel in the mouth, Accetta said. If the pizzas pass muster with the pros, then samples are given to soldiers and Marines. Servicemembers have the final say, he added.

Troops have wanted pizzas since the first MREs rolled out in the 1980s.

These pizzas will seem like a gourmet treat to troops in the field, something that civilians who try them while in a comfortable house won't understand, Accetta said. "You have to be cold, starving, exhausted to really appreciate them," he said.

Reporter Martin Egnash contributed to this story.
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MILITARY

Flexible seating comes to DODEA Europe's schools

Wobble stools, yoga balls, among choices

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — In Emily Costa's second-grade classroom, kids are free to wiggle, wobble and rock back and forth in their seats.

For the most part, Costa doesn't have to worry that fidgeting students will topple over in their chairs.

While a few of her pupils sit in a traditional chair with four legs, some wiggle like they have ants in their pants on a wobbling stool; others kneel on pillows at tables low to the floor while others prefer to stand.

Costa plans to soon add scoop rockers, plastic chairs that let kids sit and rock at floor level.

"It's so twirly," said second-grader Lucas Paffett of wobble stools. "Regular chairs just stand still. I don't like those."

The unconventional seating arrangement at Ramstein Elementary School is called flexible seating, part of a growing trend that's transforming classrooms from a one-seat-fits-all model to an eclectic design more common in coffee shops or living rooms.

The idea is that allowing students to choose seating that suits their learning style, comfort level or even their mood helps them to better concentrate on academics.



Teacher Kelli Keedwell incorporates a variety of flexible seating in her kindergarten classroom, including wobble stools, that allow students to wiggle and move while doing class work.

"It takes that one thing off their plate of having to figure out how to be comfortable in a chair, when 6-, 7-, 8-year-olds are not necessarily meant to sit all day," Costa said.

At Ramstein Elementary, at least a dozen classrooms in kindergarten, first and second grade — nearly a third of the school — have adopted or are in the process of adding some flexible seating, said principal Emmalie Lee.

The cost varies. Pillows don't cost much. Standing instead of sitting in the computer lab doesn't cost anything.

But other choices are pricier. Wobble stools start at about \$70 apiece and go up from there. Yoga balls for the classroom cost about \$30 each, teachers said.

That's where local grant money comes in.

The Department of Defense Education Activity's Europe East District this year awarded more than \$58,000 in "Smart Money" grants to 29 educators in the district, including two for flexible seating. The program supports innovation aimed at boosting student achievement.

Awards were wide-ranging, from science kits and instruments for a string orchestra to hand-held whiteboards and equipment for a secular yoga program.

Two educators, one at Ramstein Elementary and one at Ramstein Intermediate School, received grants for about \$2,350 each for flexible seating.

At Ramstein Elementary, the



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Kindergartners Blaine Denson and Makayla Gile do classwork at Ramstein Elementary School, Germany. Denson sat on a yoga ball, one of several flexible seating options in his classroom.

grant awarded to first-grade teacher Sheila Marksberry will be shared, teachers said.

"We have ordered more wobble chairs, some scoop rockers," Costa said, as well as yoga balls and floor-level chairs with a lap desk.

Kelli Keedwell, a Ramstein Elementary kindergarten teacher, received grant money for flexible seating last year after reading about it on teacher blogs and websites.

"Last year, everybody wanted yoga balls," she said. "This year, everybody wants the wobble stools. I always tell them, 'Find a seat you can do good work in.'"

Much of the evidence supporting flexible seating is anecdotal, though the concept is supported

by research that shows kids are more engaged in learning when they're physically active and are involved in creating their environment.

Keedwell said it's all about the movement.

"Kindergarten is the new first grade, academically," she said. "It's not the kindergarten that we used to know, where you're outside playing all the time. We can at least move and get some wiggles out."

But not too many wiggles.

"They learn if they are being silly or (doing) too much bouncing on the yoga ball, they lose it for the day and then they get to try again the next day," she said.

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Students show off robots, expertise at Aviano tech event

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Dozens of American and international teenagers showed off their robots and technological know-how Saturday at the Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe Invitational, a regional qualifier for the FIRST Tech Challenge world championships.

Teams spent months building their robots to perform the tasks of the competition.

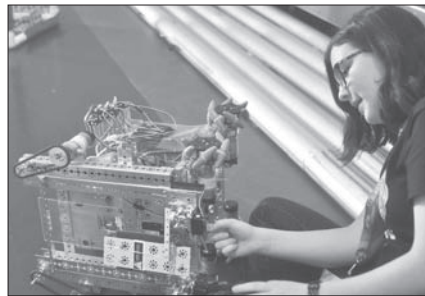
They played "relic recovery," where robots try to gather and stack blocks and maneuver around the playing field, among other requirements.

Robots first performed on their own for 30 seconds using programmed instructions. Students then electronically guided their robots for two minutes.

Newman College's SPACE team from Breda, Netherlands, earned the inspiration award, which recognized not only success but teamwork, documentation of the project and how the team carried itself during the competition.



Left: Members from one of two teams from Ramstein get set for a round of competition at the DODEA-Europe Invitational on Saturday at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Right: Vilseck freshman Alyssa Garrison works on her team's robots between competitions.



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

The Robo-Lancers from DODEA's RAF Lakenheath teamed up with the German EAGles, a team from Ernst-Abbe Gymnasium in Stuttgart, Germany, to

win the competition portion of the event.

SPACE and their partner Superfluous's Apostrophe's from Ramstein High School came in

second.

Nine DODEA schools participated in the event and fielded 11 of the 20 teams. Other teams came from Germany, the Nether-

lands and the United Kingdom.

It's the second straight year that Aviano hosted the event, which serves as the only regional qualifier in Europe.

EUROPE

18 squads rock DODEA cheer tournament

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Long before basketball took center court, cheerleaders from across Europe rocked the Clay Kaserner Fitness Center in Wiesbaden on Saturday morning with high-flying stunts, spirited dance moves and rowdy cheers.

Eighteen cheer squads competed in the Department of Defense Education Activity's 23rd Annual Cheer Tournament of Champions, giving fans who packed the gym early something to cheer for ahead of the European basketball finals.

Results in Division I mirrored 2017: Wiesbaden defended its title, while Stuttgart, Germany, was runner-up and Ramstein, Germany, finished third.

The Wiesbaden Warriors channeled the energy of their home crowd to put on a performance that capped a season of just as much hard work and dedication as last year, said junior Savannah Fisher, who is on the Wiesbaden squad.

"When you first walk out and see everyone cheering for you, it's so surreal," said Savannah Fisher, Wiesbaden Warriors squad member.

Nerves were definitely a factor, said Alicia Tate, a sophomore on the Rota, Spain, team that defended its Division II crown, beating Spangdahlem, Germany, and Aviano, Italy.

The best part of the competition, Tate said, was "getting the routine over and done with. I had butterflies."

Alconbury, England, freshman Victoria Brown was so nervous she doesn't even remember her school's Division III winning routine.

"It's such a blur," she said.

The Dragons, of Alconbury, toppled Baumholder, Germany, and last year's champ, Sigonella, Sicily.

Each team had to perform for at least two minutes and 15 seconds, and no more than 2½ minutes.

Judges scored them across a range of

The results

Division I

1. Wiesbaden, 2. Stuttgart, 3. Ramstein

Division II

1. Rota, 2. Spangdahlem, 3. Aviano

Division III

1. Alconbury, 2. Baumholder, 3. Sigonella
Spirit Award (given to teams that showed the best combination of athleticism and school spirit during the DODEA-Europe basketball tournament)

Division I — Kaiserslautern

Division II — Rota

Division III — Alconbury

All-Tournament

Division I

Amranda Euglaar, Stuttgart; Autumn Torres and Kennedy Johnson, Lakenheath, England; Jada Branch and Jordan Green, Kaiserslautern; Katlyn Romanowski, Naples, Italy; Lauren Miller, Vicenza, Italy; Lexie Leipheimer, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe; Samantha Sonka and Yesenia Earth, Ramstein; Savannah Fisher and Ta'Nya Thomas, Wiesbaden

Division II

Kaleigh Brown, Spangdahlem; Kendall Demeritt, Madelynn Scopa and Shannon McLaughlin, Rota; Laura Hacker and Zefan Hu, American Overseas School of Rome; Talitha Island and Victoria Taylor, Aviano

Division III

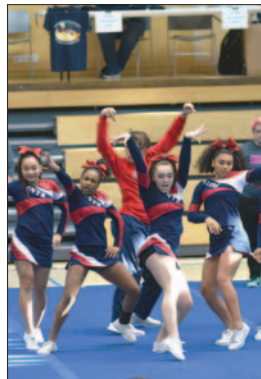
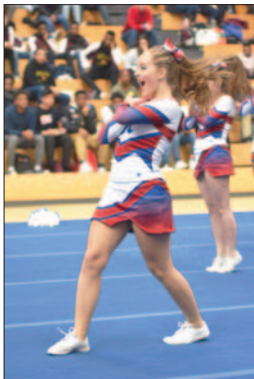
Aaliyah Rawlings, Sigonella; Eve Myers and Kylie Edwards, Hohenfels, Germany; Grace Baxter and Kaylee Sink, Brussels; Grace Pedigo and Kacie Baldevia, Baumholder; Isabel Black, Alconbury

categories, from difficulty and execution of stunts to how well their cheers engaged and energized the crowd, said Kate Vitulli, a member of the DODEA-Europe cheer staff.

"This is a showcase for them," Vitulli said. "Normally, it's all about what they're doing to support the crowd and a team."

The tournament "showcases the skills and talent and athleticism" that they have as cheerleaders, she said.

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PHOTOS BY JENNIFER SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Clockwise from top: Winning Wiesbaden Warriors cheerleaders do splits in the air during the DODEA-Europe cheer tournament on Saturday in Wiesbaden, Germany; the Aviano, Italy, Saints dance en route to a third-place Division II finish; and Ramstein, Germany, sophomore Samantha Sonka helps her Division 1 team to a third-place finish.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

National elections near in divided Iraq

BY QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
AND SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Long beset by toxic divisions, Iraq seems to be growing even more fragmented ahead of national elections scheduled for May, with Iranian influence set to grow and the minority Sunnis seething as they fend for themselves in areas of the country shattered by the three-year war against Islamic State.

The Sunnis, many of them in displacement camps, bore the brunt of the war's destruction and have been left so bereft that many don't even have the papers needed to register to vote. If they don't end up feeling the vote was fair, that could badly undermine the international community's goal of bringing about the more inclusive government critical to maintaining a unified state and avoiding a repeat of the ISIS disaster.

Adding to the volatile mix are the Iranian-backed Shiite militias, now even more politically involved, which are allied with but not controlled by the Shiite-led Baghdad government, and appear set to gain influence that would alarm many in the region trying to check the power of Shiite-led Arab Iraq.

If divisions among Sunnis, Shites and Kurds persist, they could lead to more protracted talks to form a new government, poten-

tially delaying the colossal task of rebuilding Iraq after ISIS overran nearly a third of the country in 2014, mostly Sunni towns, and then hung on as a U.S.-led coalition surrounded and bombarded the areas they controlled.

The extremist group was able to at least initially benefit from some popular support among Sunnis. After the ouster of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, many Sunnis felt marginalized as parties led by Shites were able to win elections by sheer numbers. Sunnis, in turn, felt they had lost their fair share of power.

Sunnis are worried that the Shiite influence, mainly of the Iranian-backed militias, will grow in their areas if the Shiite-backed Sunni candidates win, and that will make it hard for them to come together in the future.

Aware of the problem, politicians now appear to be trying to distance themselves from openly

‘Differences now are deeper than before in that everyone is seeking influence in the next government.’

Ali al-Adeeb
leading Shiite politician



Posters of killed Popular Mobilization Forces fighters and Shiite military leaders are seen in Baghdad.

sectarian rhetoric in the run-up to the vote, saying they will form diverse and cross-sectarian coalitions. But many expect the generally chaotic post-election creation of a parliament majority will be sectarian in nature nonetheless.

"Differences now are deeper than before in that everyone is seeking influence in the next government," said Ali al-Adeeb, a leading Shiite politician. "Thus, the process of forming the new government will be complicated, and any further delay will further complicate the political and security scene."

Nearly 7,000 candidates will vie for 329 seats in parliament in the May 12 elections, the fourth since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that removed Saddam from power, according to the Independent High Electoral Commission.

Candidates have formed 27 political coalitions and, last month, the electoral commission extended

the deadline for registering the alliances as political parties worked to negotiate deals but failed.

Sunni candidates are divided among three big alliances and up to seven small ones.

Sunni lawmaker Mohammed al-Karbolli said Sunni candidates will have a difficult time facing more dominant Shiite political groups who have far more resources.

"The Sunnis will have a weak presence in the next parliament. We are not optimistic about the coming elections," he said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced he is seeking reelection with his recently formed Victory Alliance, running separately from rival Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law coalition. Al-Maliki is currently vice president; he was prime minister from 2006 to 2014.

Both men are members of the Shiite Islamist Dawa party, which has said its supporters can vote for either candidate.



A Shiite cleric passes a poster reading "Electoral reform" in Baghdad.

Damascus, suburbs calm after UN cease-fire vote

BY BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Syrian capital and its embattled eastern suburbs were relatively calm Sunday despite some violence that killed at least three people following the U.N. Security Council's unanimous approval of a resolution demanding a 30-day cease-fire across Syria, opposition activists and residents of Damascus said.

The activists reported low-level clashes on the southern edge of the rebel-held suburbs, known as eastern Ghouta, and two airstrikes late Saturday night, shortly after the resolution was adopted. During the day Sunday, more shelling and airstrikes were reported by activists in eastern Ghouta.

The relative calm came after a week of intense airstrikes and shelling that killed more than 500 people in eastern Ghouta and left dozens dead or wounded in government-held Damascus, which rebels pelted with mortar shells.

"This has been the calmest night since last Sunday," said Rami Abdulrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, refer-

ring to the start of the bombing campaign on Feb. 19.

The Observatory said Sunday's shelling killed three people and wounded 27 in several areas in eastern Ghouta. The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense, also known as White Helmets, said the three were killed in the towns of Saqba, Beit Sawa and Hammouriyeh.

State news agency SANA said insurgents breached the truce by firing 15 shells Sunday on government-held areas on the edge of Ghouta.

Ghouta-based opposition activist Anas al-Dimashqi said the night was calm but warplanes and drones were flying over rebel-held areas. He said several explosions were heard Sunday in Ghouta.

Dr. Sakhr al-Dimashqi, a surgeon at a clinic in Ghouta, told the Associated Press that several shells hit some towns in the suburbs, adding that they received six wounded people at the clinic where he works.

"The shelling today is not as intense as over the past week," he said.

The two largest and most powerful rebel factions in Ghouta, Fatah al-Rahman and Army of



Syrian Ambassador to the United Nations Bashar al-Ja'fari, center left, enters the U.N. Security Council chambers before a scheduled vote Saturday on a 30-day humanitarian cease-fire across Syria.

Islam, issued statements saying they will abide by the cease-fire unless they are forced to fire in self-defense. Both called for the "immediate delivery" of emergency aid.

The resolution excludes members of Islamic State and al-Qaida-linked fighters. Ghouta is home to a few hundred members of the al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said Sunday that the fight against ISIS and al-Qaida's affiliate will continue despite what it described as attempts by certain external players

to engage "international terrorists and groups of opposition militants joining them to implement plans that are still nurtured to overthrow the legitimate authorities of Syria and dismember the country."

It added that "the terrorists won't get any respite."

Damascus residents said there's more traffic in the streets compared with previous days, and most schools and universities were open Sunday.

They said some private schools were still closed, especially those close to the front lines with Ghouta.

Ex-lawmaker, bodyguard shot dead in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official said a former lawmaker and one of his bodyguards were killed after gunmen opened fire on their vehicle in the capital, Kabul.

Basir Mujahid, spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the ex-lawmaker, Rafi Gul Afghan, and his bodyguard were gunned down Saturday night in the northern neighborhood of Khair Khana in the Afghan capital.

Mujahid said the attackers managed to escape. The motive for the attack was not immediately clear. A police investigation is underway.

Gul Afghan had served as deputy speaker for the upper house of Afghanistan's parliament and most recently was an adviser to the country's chief executive, Abdullah Abdullah.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

NATION

Deadly severe storms sweep across central US

BY JOHN RABY
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Severe thunderstorms spawned suspected tornadoes and triggered widespread flooding that left at least three people dead in Kentucky and Arkansas.

The system that stretched from Texas to the Canadian maritime provinces on Sunday had prompted emergency declarations a day earlier in Missouri, Indiana and Illinois.

In south central Kentucky, the body of a male was recovered from a vehicle submerged in floodwaters in a creek near the community of Franklin on Saturday, the Simpson County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The victim's identity was being withheld pending notification of relatives.

About 20 miles away, Dallas Jane Combs, 79, died when a suspected tornado destroyed her Adairville home earlier Saturday, the Logan County Sheriff's Office told media outlets. Sheriff officials said Combs was inside the home when it collapsed on her. Combs was pronounced dead at the scene.

Authorities said Combs' husband was outside putting up plastic to keep rain out of the home when he was blown into the basement area. He sustained minor injuries.

In northeast Arkansas, a man was killed after high winds toppled a trailer home. Clay County Sheriff Terry Miller told KAIT-TV that Albert Foster, 83, died Saturday night after the home was blown into a pond.

About 50 miles away, the National Weather Service said the roof was blown off a



LACY ATKINS, THE (NASHVILLE) TENNESSEAN/AP

People clear away debris Sunday after a storm hit in Clarksville, Tenn., on Saturday.

hotel in Osceola, about 160 miles north of Memphis, Tenn.

Storm-related damage also was reported in Middle Tennessee, where Fox17 in Nashville reported extensive damage to homes and vehicles. Fox17 says at least a dozen homes were damaged in one Montgomery County subdivision.

The National Weather Service said it was sending crews to survey damage in a section of central Tennessee.

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens signed an executive order earlier Saturday declaring a state of emergency ahead of the anticipated storms and flooding in parts of southern Missouri. The order activates the resources of the Missouri National Guard and ensures state resources are available in the event of weather damage.

Other state leaders have issued similar



LIZ DUFOUR, THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/AP

A man paddles his boat next to a home Saturday after the Ohio River overflowed its banks in Cincinnati's East End.

orders. Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb declared a disaster emergency for 11 counties and Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner issued a state disaster proclamation for three counties hit by flooding.

Flood watches and warnings spanned multiple states Sunday morning, from Missouri to central Pennsylvania, while a wind advisory remained in effect for nearly all of Lower Michigan.

The weather service said flooding was expected along the Ohio River in Kentucky and Ohio, including in Cincinnati, where the river was 8 feet above flood stage Sunday.

Transportation officials said parts of Interstate 64 in Louisville, Ky., were closed in both directions Sunday due to high water.



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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION



Gwendolyn Frantz, 17, of Kensington, Md., stands in front of the White House on Wednesday during a student-led protest calling for new gun control laws.

EVAN VUCCI/AP

No consensus in Congress on guns

By LISA MASCARO
AND MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After a 10-day break, members of Congress are returning to work under pressure to respond to the outcry over gun violence. But no plan appears ready to take off despite a long list of proposals, including many from President Donald Trump.

Republican leaders have kept quiet for days as Trump tossed out ideas, including raising the minimum age to purchase assault-style weapons and arming teachers.

Their silence has left little indication whether they are ready to rally behind any one of the president's ideas, dust off another proposal or do nothing. The most likely option is bolstering the federal background check system for gun purchases, but they're bogged down after being linked with a measure to expand gun rights.

The halting start reflects firm GOP opposition to any bill that would curb access to guns and risk antagonizing gun advocates. Before the Feb. 14 shooting at

a high school in Parkland, Fla., Republicans had no intention of reviving the politically risky gun debate during an already difficult election year that could endanger their congressional majority.

Under tough public questioning from shooting survivors, Trump has set high expectations for action.

Trump's early ideas were met with mixed reactions from his party. His talk of allowing teachers to carry concealed weapons into classrooms was rejected by at least one Republican, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio.

Some Republicans backed up Trump's apparent endorsement of raising the age minimum for buying some weapons.

Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said he would support raising the age limit to buy a semi-automatic weapon like the one used in Florida. Rubio also supports lifting the age for rifle purchases. Rep. Brian Mast, R-Fla., a longtime NRA member, wrote in The New York Times that he now supports an assault weapons ban.

Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., is looking to revive the bill he previously

proposed with Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., to expand presale checks for firearms purchases online and at gun shows.

First introduced after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in 2012 in Connecticut, the measure has twice been rejected by the Senate. Toomey's office said he is seeking to build bipartisan support after the latest shooting.

More likely, the Senate will turn to a bipartisan bill from Sens. John Cornyn, R-Texas and Chris Murphy, D-Conn., to strengthen FBI background checks — a response to a shooting last November in which a gunman killed more than two dozen people at a Texas church.

That bill would penalize federal agencies that don't properly report required records and reward states that comply by providing them with federal grant preferences. It was drafted after the Air Force acknowledged that it failed to report the Texas gunman's domestic violence conviction to the National Criminal Information Center database.

More governors willing to consider gun law changes

By DAN BALZ
AND MICHAEL SCHERER
The Washington Post

A growing number of governors have joined calls for a reconsideration of gun laws and school safety measures after the mass shooting in Parkland, Fla., a sign that resulting legislative changes could extend beyond Florida.

The impact of the shootings rippled through the winter meeting of the National Governors Association in Washington this past weekend as state leaders expressed willingness to consider new limits on gun ownership and stepped efforts to address mental health factors. But most said they were opposed to President Donald Trump's proposal to arm teachers.

The comments came as students and grieving families continued to push lawmakers to pass new measures to address the murder of 17 students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

"I just want to get the word out to the governors of every state that they have to do something today," Meadow Pollack, whose daughter, Meadow Pollack, was killed at the school, said in an interview on "Fox News Sunday." "My daughter's death can't be in vain."

Individual governors said they would be open to raising the age limit for the purchase of long guns to 21, a measure opposed by the National Rifle Association, or

said they believed there should be better ways for family members or others to take concerns about unstable individuals to a judge and have weapons confiscated.

Both measures were endorsed Friday by Florida's Republican governor, Rick Scott, a longtime supporter of the NRA, who opposed new gun laws after the 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse nightclub in Florida and the 2017 mass shooting at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport.

Democratic governors were pointed in calls for their fellow Republicans to buck the NRA and praised Scott for the measures he is taking in Florida.

"You're seeing some of the Republicans show some tiny glimmer of throwing off the masters of the NRA," said Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, a Democrat. "The youthful voices (calling for steps to restrict guns) have been very powerful and very inspirational."

Governors interviewed during the NGA meeting said for the most part that they did not have proposals ready to take to their legislatures and that, with limited time in legislative sessions, action might not be speedy. But they suggested that the horror of the killings in Florida could force changes in the future.

A number of governors said they opposed arming teachers, saying that educators should teach and not become law enforcement officers.

Fla. sheriff says only 1 deputy was on scene during shooting

Associated Press

The Florida sheriff whose department responded to this month's high school massacre defended his leadership Sunday while insisting only one of his deputies was on the scene as the gunman killed 14 students and three staff members.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel told CNN investigators are looking into claims three other deputies were on the scene but failed to enter the school when it was possible to save lives. To date, the investigation pointed to one deputy being on campus while the killer was present, he said.

Israel also labeled as "absolutely untrue" reports the deputies waited outside even though children were inside the building needing medical treatment.

Israel and the sheriff's office have come under scrutiny after last week's revelation that deputy Scott Peterson did not go in to confront the suspected shooter, Nikolas Cruz, 19, during the Valentine's Day attack. It is also

facing backlash for apparently mishandling some of the 18 tipster calls related to the suspected shooter. The tips were among a series of what authorities describe as the clearest missed warning signs that Cruz, who had a history of disturbing behavior, posed a serious threat.

State Rep. Bill Hager, a Republican lawmaker from Boca Raton, is calling on Florida Gov. Rick Scott to remove Israel from office because of the missed red flags. Scott demanded on Sunday full transparency from the sheriff in an interview with Fox News. Israel vowed not to resign, saying he has shown "amazing leadership."

Israel said a deputy who responded to a Nov. 30 call referring to Cruz as a "school shooter in the making" was being investigated by internal affairs for not filing a report.

Later Sunday, Stoneman Douglas administrators, teachers, parents and students were scheduled to meet at the school to discuss its scheduled reopening.

Fla., NRA face backlash after shooting

By KEN SWEET, DAMIAN TROISE
AND ALEXANDRA OLSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Rifle Association, and now the state of Florida, faced a growing backlash Saturday as companies cut ties to the gun industry following the latest school massacre and student survivors called for tourism boycotts of their home state until gun control measures are enacted.

The latest companies to end their ties with the NRA were Delta and United Airlines.

Both Delta and United said Saturday they will no longer offer discounted fares to NRA members to attend their annual meetings, and both have asked the gun rights group to remove any references to their companies from the NRA website.

A growing number of large companies have announced they are cutting or reducing ties with the association. Rental car company Hertz will no longer offer a discount program to NRA members, and First National Bank of Omaha, one of the nation's largest privately held banks, said it will not renew a co-branded Visa credit card it has with the NRA.

The State of Florida also was facing some backlash. One of the survivors of the Florida school shoot-

ing suggested Saturday on Twitter that tourists stay away from the state. He got an immediate response.

"Let's make a deal," tweeted David Hogg, a Stoneman Douglas student who has been a major player in the "neveragain movement. "DO NOT come to Florida for spring break unless gun legislation is passed."

Wendy Glaab, 60, of Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, was among the first to respond. "I like many Canadians travel to Florida from time to time to escape our winter. I can't speak for others but I will not be returning until meaningful gun control legislation is in place."

Insurance company MetLife Inc. discontinued its discount program with the NRA on Friday. Symantec Corp., the software company that makes Norton Antivirus technology, did the same. Insurer Chubb Ltd. said it is ending participation in the NRA's gun-owner insurance program, but it provided notice three months ago.

Car rental company Enterprise Holdings, which also owns Alamo and National, said it was cutting off discounts for NRA member, as did Hertz.

Other companies, including Wyndham Hotels and Best Western hotels, have let social media users know they are no longer affiliated with the NRA, though they did not make clear when the partnerships ended.

NATION

Democrats release memo defending FBI surveillance

By MARY CLARE JALONICK
AND CHAD DAY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two weeks after President Donald Trump blocked its full release, the House Intelligence Committee published a partially blacked-out version of a classified Democratic memo aiming to counter a GOP narrative that the FBI and Justice Department conspired against Trump as they investigated his ties to Russia.

The document's release Saturday was the latest development in an extraordinary back and forth between Republicans and Democrats over the credibility of multiple inquiries into links between the Trump campaign and Russia, and the integrity of the top U.S. law enforcement agencies.

The document attempts to undercut and add context to some of the main points from a declassified Republican memo made public earlier this month. In that memo, Republicans went after the FBI and the Justice Depart-

ment over the use of information compiled by former British spy Christopher Steele in obtaining a secret warrant to monitor the communications of onetime Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page.

The GOP memo included the assertion that the FBI obtained a surveillance warrant without disclosing that Steele's anti-Trump research was paid for by Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

The Democratic memo said the Justice Department disclosed "the assessed political motivation of those who hired him" and that Steele was likely hired by someone "looking for information that could be used to discredit" then-candidate Trump's campaign.

Republicans say that is not enough because the Clinton campaign and the DNC were not named. Trump seized on this point in a tweet Saturday evening: "Dem Memo: FBI did not disclose who the clients were - the Clinton Campaign and the DNC. Wow!"



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump had blocked the full release of the Democrats' memo defending the FBI which countered a GOP memo. Congress released a redacted, declassified memo Saturday.

The White House on Feb. 9 had objected to the Democratic memo's release, citing national security concerns. That sent the Democrats back to negotiations with the FBI, which approved a version with parts of it blacked out. It was then declassified and released.

Trump had no such concerns about the GOP memo, which he declassified in full on Feb. 2 over strong objections from the FBI about the memo's accuracy.

The Democratic memo asserts that the FBI's concerns about Page long predate the compilation of memos drafted by Steele, now known as the Trump-Russia "dossier," and that the gov-

ernment's application to monitor Page's communications details suspicious activities he undertook during the 2016 presidential campaign. That includes a July 2016 trip to Moscow in which he gave a university commencement address.

The memo contends that the Justice Department provided "additional information from multiple independent sources that corroborated Steele's reporting" in the dossier.

Most of the details of the corroborated information are blacked out, but they do appear to reference Page's meeting with Russian officials.

US says Russians hacked Olympics

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Russian military spies hacked several hundred computers used by authorities at the 2018 Winter Olympics Games in South Korea, according to U.S. intelligence.

They did so while trying to make it appear as though the intrusion was conducted by North Korea, what is known as a "false-flag" operation, said two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter.

Officials in Pyeongchang acknowledged that the Games were hit by a cyberattack during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony but had refused to confirm whether Russia was responsible. That evening there were disruptions to the internet, broadcast systems and the Olympics website. Many attendees were unable to print their tickets for the ceremony, resulting in empty seats.

Analysts surmise the disruption was retaliation against the International Olympic Committee for banning the Russian team from the Winter Games due to doping violations. No officials from Russia's Olympic federation were allowed to attend, and while some athletes were permitted to compete under the designation "Olympic Athletes from Russia," they were unable to display the Russian flag on their uniforms and, if they won medals, their country's anthem was not played.

As of early February, the Russian military agency GRU had access to as many as 300 Olympic-related computers, according to an intelligence report this month.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence declined to comment.

Apart from accessing the computers, GRU cyberoperators also hacked routers in South Korea last month and deployed new malware on the day the Olympics began, according to Western intelligence agencies.

It is not clear whether the disruptions during the opening ceremony were the result of that access.

The GRU hackers are thought to work for the agency's Main Center for Special Technology, or GTSST, according to intelligence agencies. That unit has been highly active in information warfare against the West and was behind the NotPetya cyberattack that crippled computers in Ukraine last year.

Feinstein loses endorsement of Calif. Democrats

By DAVID WEIGEL
The Washington Post

California Democrats rebuked Sen. Dianne Feinstein at her annual convention this past weekend, denying her the party's endorsement in this year's Senate race and giving a majority of their votes to her liberal primary challenger.

Just 37 percent of delegates to the statewide convention, held this year in San Diego, backed Feinstein in her bid for a fifth full term. More than 54 percent backed state Sen. Kevin de Leon, who entered the race in October and has run to Feinstein's

left on health care, taxes and immigration.

Candidates needed 60 percent of the vote to win the party's endorsement, making Feinstein the first incumbent senator in recent memory who will run in June's primary without official backing.

"California Democrats are hungry for new leadership that will fight for California values from the front lines, not equivocate on the sidelines," de Leon said Sunday morning in a statement. "We all deserve a leader who will take our climate action to Washington, and will fight each and every day to protect our human and civil rights, our immigrant families

and Dreamers, champion universal healthcare and create good paying middle class jobs."

Losing at the party's convention does not stop any candidate from fighting to win in the primary.

In 1990, as a candidate for governor of California, Feinstein was denied the party's endorsement at the convention, in part due to her support for the death penalty. She went on to win the nomination, losing in November to Republican Pete Wilson.

De Leon's strong showing at the convention changed the narrative, demonstrating the trouble that Feinstein — who turns 85 this summer — will face in per-

suading a changing party to get behind her.

The contest between Feinstein and de Leon has emerged as the only serious Democratic primary squabble, as Democrats in redder states such as Indiana and West Virginia are facing only token challenges.

But even a bitter showdown in June may end up helping California Democrats.

The party's top-two primary system sends the two candidates who win the most votes in the summer to the general election in November regardless of their party affiliation.

Mexican leader calls off visit after testy call with Trump

The Washington Post

Tentative plans for Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto to make his first visit to the White House to meet with President Donald Trump were scuttled last week after a testy call between the two leaders ended in an impasse over Trump's promised border wall, according to U.S. and Mexican officials.

Peña Nieto was eyeing an official trip to Washington this month or in early March, but called off the plan after Trump would not agree to publicly affirm Mexico's position that it would not fund construction of a border wall that the Mexican people widely consider offensive, said the officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a confiden-



Peña Nieto

tial conversation.

Speaking by phone on Tuesday, Peña Nieto and Trump devoted a considerable portion of their roughly 50-minute conversation to the wall, and neither man would compromise his position.

One Mexican official said Trump "lost his temper." U.S. officials described him instead

as being frustrated and exasperated, saying Trump believed it was unreasonable for Peña Nieto to expect him to "back off" his crowd-pleasing campaign promise of forcing Mexico

to pay for the wall.

Both accounts confirm it was Peña Nieto's desire to avoid public embarrassment — and Trump's unwillingness to provide that assurance — that proved to be the dealbreaker.

The two presidents' public posturing over the wall — Trump demands that Mexico pay for it, Peña Nieto insists that it will not — has harmed their personal relationship and jeopardized the alliance between the neighboring countries.

Still, negotiations between their respective administrations continue agree on the North American Free Trade Agreement and other issues. And both governments have striven to portray their ties as strong and the exchanges between their leaders as smooth.

NATION

Motorcade arrives at Graham's NC library

By ALLEN G. BREED
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Admirers took photos on their phones, firetrucks parked on freeway overpasses and police officers saluted at a motorcade carrying the body of the Rev. Billy Graham crossed the evangelist's beloved home state of North Carolina for four hours Saturday from his mountain chapel to his namesake library in the state's largest city.

Residents in some of Graham's most cherished places paid tribute to "America's Pastor," starting at the training center operated by his evangelistic association in Asheville. The motorcade rolled through Black Mountain, where he shopped and caught trains, and Montreat, where he lived.

Well-wishers lined sidewalks and medians as the motorcade reached Charlotte. Pallbearers, followed by family, carried the coffin into the Billy Graham Library, which will serve as a backdrop for the funeral.

Franklin Graham said he was fulfilling a promise to his father to bring the body to Charlotte. He said he was overwhelmed by "the outpouring of love."

Leighton Ford, the evangelist's brother-in-law, said the procession brought gratitude and a tinge of sadness.

"I think he'd say, 'It's not about me. It's about the Lord,'" said Ford. "I remember at his last stadium meeting here in Charlotte, the mayor of Charlotte told me he was riding out on the platform with Billy, and everybody was cheering, and Billy said: 'Wait a minute. It's not about us. It's about Him.'"

Graham, who died Wednesday at his home in North Carolina's mountains at age 89, reached hundreds of millions of listeners around the world with his rallies and his pioneering use of television.

A viewing will be held at the library in Charlotte on Monday and Tuesday. Graham will also lie in honor in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda in Washington on Wednesday and Thursday, the first time a private citizen has been accorded such recognition since civil rights hero Rosa Parks in 2005.

Adults and children stood behind wooden barricades and yellow tape along a route that included parts of Interstate 40. A man played bagpipes at a highway rest area near Marion, where an overpass was draped with flags from about 15 nations. In Black Mountain, a group sang "Amazing Grace."

"He has never really reveled in all of the celebrity. It's come with the territory," said Joe Tyson, a family friend who runs a furniture store in Black Mountain, where he watched the procession.

Graham will be buried on Friday.



JOE TABACCA/AP

Two New York City police officers help an injured woman away from the scene of the World Trade Center truck bomb attack on Feb. 26, 1993.

Trade center bombing echoes after 25 years

By JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a room in the 9/11 museum, there are a police captain's poignant notes and a flashlight that illuminated the way to safety. Nearby, a letter from a trapped man tells his family, "I love you very much. ... Do wonderful things in your life."

The artifacts aren't from Sept. 11, 2001. They are reminders of a terrorist attack that foreshadowed the deadly World Trade Center bombing 25 years ago Monday.

That shadow fell personally on Lolita Jackson. As a young finance worker, she picked her way down 72 flights of blacked-out stairs on Feb. 26, 1993, and fled the trade center's south tower again in 2001.

The bombing "tends to be forgotten because 9/11 was such a cataclysmic event," she said. But the blast has its own place in the lives and memories of an estimated 50,000 people who were in the twin towers that snowy afternoon.

The explosion killed six people, injured more than 1,000, manifested the growing terrorism threat from Islamic extremism and led to safety improvements credited with helping some people survive Sept. 11.

It "was, in many respects, a precursor to 9/11," said museum President Alice Greenwald.

A bomb exploded in a rented van in a basement parking garage shortly after noon, caus-

ing a crater several stories deep and a boom felt many floors above.

The blast killed visitor John DiGiovanni and five people who worked at the trade center — Robert Kirkpatrick, Stephen Knapp, William Macko, Wilfredo Mercado and Monica Rodriguez Smith, who was pregnant.

Power was knocked out and pipes were severed, flooding backup generators. Elevators got stuck. A group of kindergartners was stranded for hours on an observation deck. Other people were trapped in the debris-filled garage. Police helicopters plucked nearly two dozen people, some disabled, from rooftops.

Some office workers broke out windows to try to clear smoke while awaiting help. Others made their way down, emerging coated in soot.

Jackson didn't feel fearful at first. What was terrifying was the 2½-hour trek down the pitch-dark, crowded, smoky stairs, wondering what she would see at the bottom.

"You didn't know what was going to happen," recalled Jackson, who now works in city government.

Within days, a fragment of the rented van began leading investigators to Muslim extremists who sought to punish the United States for its Middle East policies, especially its aid to Israel, according to prosecutors.

Attorneys seek information on aborted Ala. execution

By KIM CHANDLER
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Execution team members stuck an inmate repeatedly in the lower legs, ankles and groin in an effort to find a usable vein before the state called off the lethal injection, according to a Friday court filing by the inmate's lawyer.

Attorney Bernard Harcourt said he is seeking more information about what happened during the attempted execution of his client, Doyle Lee Hamm, 61, on Thursday night.

U.S. District Judge Karon Bowdre on Friday ordered a medical examination of Hamm and directed the state to maintain mate-

rial related to the attempt.

Hamm, who has battled lymphoma, was to be executed Thursday for the 1987 slaying of motel clerk Patrick Cunningham. However, prison officials announced about 11:30 p.m. Thursday that they were halting the execution because medical staff did not think they could obtain "the appropriate venous access" before a midnight deadline. The announcement came about 2½ hours after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the execution to proceed.

The state prison commissioner said the execution was delayed because of a "time issue."

"I wouldn't necessarily characterize what we had tonight as a

problem. ... The only indication I have is that in their medical judgment, it was more of a time issue given the late hour," Alabama Department of Corrections Commissioner Jeff Dunn said Friday.

Harcourt said the execution was botched and that he had argued in court filings since July that lethal injection would be difficult and painful because Hamm's veins have been severely compromised by lymphoma, hepatitis and prior drug use.

Two execution team members, working on each side of Hamm's body, tried multiple times to insert the intravenous line on his left and right legs and ankles, and later turned him over and slapped the back of his legs to try

to get a vein, Harcourt said. They then tried unsuccessfully to connect the line through his groin, he said.

"He's in great pain from yesterday evening, physically, from all of the attempts to access his veins in his lower extremities and in his groin," Harcourt told The Associated Press.

Shortly after officials announced that the execution had been halted, Dunn said the only obstacle to a successful execution was that the team lacked sufficient time. Dunn said he didn't know how long the medical team attempted to connect the line.

The Alabama attorney general's office didn't respond to a request for comment.

California parents face new charges in kids' torture case

Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A Southern California couple suspected of starving and shackling some of their 13 children pleaded not guilty Friday to new charges of child abuse.

David and Louise Turpin previously entered not-guilty pleas to torture and a raft of other charges and are being held on \$12 million bail. Louise Turpin also pleaded not guilty to a new count of felony assault.

Louise Turpin, dressed in a blouse and blazer, looked intently at more than a dozen reporters in the courtroom. David Turpin, wearing a blazer, tie and black-



David Turpin

rimmed glasses, kept his eyes on the judge during the hearing. Both said little except to agree to a May preliminary hearing.

The couple was arrested last month after their 17-year-old daughter escaped from the family's home in Perris, Calif., and called 911.

Authorities said the home reeked of human waste and evidence of starvation was obvious,



Louise Turpin

with the oldest sibling weighing only 82 pounds.

The case drew international media attention and shocked neighbors, who said

they rarely saw the children and that they appeared to be skinny, pale and reserved.

Authorities said the abuse was so long-running that the children's growth was stunted. They said the couple shackled the chil-

dren to furniture as punishment and had them live a nocturnal lifestyle.

The children, who range in age from 2 to 29, were hospitalized immediately after their rescue. Since then, Riverside County authorities, who obtained temporary conservatorship over the adults, have declined to discuss their whereabouts or condition.

Attorneys representing the adult siblings told CBS News, however, that seven of them are living at Corona Medical Center, where they have an outdoor area for sports and exercise and are making decisions on their own for the first time.

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WORLD

Open: North Korea condemns new sanctions from US

FROM FRONT PAGE

The latest twist occurred during a meeting ahead of the Olympics closing ceremony on Sunday between Moon and chief North Korean delegate Kim Yong Chol, a vice chairman of the ruling Workers' Party's central committee.

Kim Yong Chol is also a former general and spy master who has been accused of being behind two deadly attacks on South Korea in 2010, including the sinking of a ship that killed nearly 50 sailors. He has been blacklisted by Seoul, but the government decided to allow him to attend the Olympics in the spirit of holding a peaceful event.

During their meeting, Moon called for U.S.-North Korea dialogue to be held "at an early date" as a condition for improvement in the inter-Korean relationship, according to his office. It added that Kim agreed and said his country "has ample intentions of holding a North Korea-U.S. dialogue."

The statement followed an invitation for an inter-Korean summit that was delivered by the North Korean leader's sister, Kim Yo Jong, who led the delegation to the opening ceremony.

The South Korean leader has not accepted, urging the North to create the conditions necessary for



MICHAEL PROBST/AP

Kim Yong Chol, rear right, vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee, watches the Olympics closing ceremony with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, seated left, and Ivanka Trump, seated right.

such a visit and to actively engage with the United States.

He and the North Koreans later attended the elaborate festivities marking the end of the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang.

Photos captured the remarkable image of one of North Korea's highest officials seated behind President

Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and in the same row as Gen. Vincent Brooks, the commander of U.S. Forces Korea, in the VIP box.

In dealing with North Korea, Trump has bounced between threatening military action and saying he would be willing to talk to the country's leader, Kim Jong

Un, under the right conditions.

"We will see if Pyongyang's message today, that it is willing to hold talks, represents the first steps along the path to denuclearization," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement. "In the meantime, the United States and the world must continue to make clear that North Korea's nuclear and missile programs are a dead end."

The latest U.S. sanctions were part of Trump's "maximum pressure" campaign aimed at getting the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Trump warned over the weekend that if sanctions don't work, the United States would move to a new phase that could be "very rough" and "very unfortunate for the world."

The Treasury Department said it was barring U.S. business transactions with nine international shipping companies from China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Panama, along with nine of their vessels.

It also blacklisted 16 North Korea shipping companies and 19 North Korean-flagged vessels.

The unilateral U.S. moves are in addition to several others imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

Despite the measures, North

Korea has made strong advances in its efforts to develop a nuclear weapon that could target the United States. It test-fired several missiles and conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test last year.

North Korea lashed out at the latest sanctions in a report on state-run media earlier Sunday, noting Kim Jong Un had agreed to participate in the Feb. 9-25 Winter Games and engage in rare talks with the South.

"Thanks to our supreme leadership's noble love for the nation and strong determination for peace, long-awaited inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation have been realized and the Olympics took place successfully by the inter-Korean collaboration," the Korean Central News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying.

"However, on the eve of closing of the Olympics, United States is running amok to bring another dark cloud of confrontation and war over the Korean peninsula by announcing enormous sanctions."

The North warned that it "will consider any type of blockade an act of war against us."

North Korea frequently reacts to measures against it with bellicose rhetoric.

game1.kim@stripes.com

China's ruling party looks to end term limits

By GILLIAN WONG

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party has proposed scrapping term limits for the country's president, the official news agency said Sunday, appearing to lay the groundwork for party leader Xi Jinping to rule as president beyond 2023.

The party's Central Committee proposed to remove from the constitution the expression that China's president and vice president "shall serve no more than two consecutive terms," the Xinhua News Agency said.

Xi, 64, cemented his status as the most powerful Chinese leader since Mao Zedong, who founded communist China, at last year's twice-a-decade Communist Party congress, where his name and a political theory attributed to him were added to the party constitution as he was given a second five-year term as general secretary.

It was the latest move by the party signaling Xi's willingness to break with tradition and centralize power under him. Xi has taken control of a wide range of political, economic and other functions, a break with the past two decades of collective leadership.

Xi's happy-go-lucky is potentially very dangerous because the reason why Mao Zedong made one mistake after another was because China at the time was a one-man show," said Willy Lam, a political analyst at the Chinese University in Hong Kong. Xi Jinping, what he says is the law. There are no longer any

checks and balances."

Xi is coming to the end of his first five-year term as president and is set to be appointed to his second term at an annual meeting of the rubber-stamp parliament that starts March 5. The proposal to end term limits will likely be approved at that meeting.

Term limits on officeholders have been in place since they were included in the 1982 constitution.

Political analysts said the party would likely seek to justify the proposed removal of the presidential term limit by citing Xi's vision of establishing a prosperous, modern society by 2050.

Hu Xingdou, a Beijing-based political commentator, said while Xi might need an extra five-year term or two to carry out his plans, the country is unlikely to return to an era of lifetime tenure for heads of state.

Xi's image dominates official propaganda, prompting suggestions that he is trying to build a cult of personality, and evoking memories of the upheaval of Mao's 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. Party representatives insist Xi is the core of its seven-member Standing Committee, not a lone strongman.

At last year's party congress, Xi gave a "new era" under his leadership and laid out his vision of a ruling party that serves as the vanguard for everything from defending national security to providing moral guidance to ordinary Chinese. At the close of the congress, the party elevated five new officials to assist Xi in his second five-year term but stopped short



NU HAN GUAN/AP

China's ruling Communist Party proposed removing a limit of two consecutive terms for the president and vice president, which would allow President Xi Jinping to remain in power.

of designating an obvious successor to him.

Political analysts said the absence of an apparent successor pointed to Xi's longer-term ambitions.

Sunday's announcement on term limits came before the Central Committee was to begin a three-day meeting in Beijing on Monday to discuss major personnel appointments and other issues. The son of a famed communist elder, Xi rose through the ranks to the position of Shanghai's party leader before being promoted to the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee in 2007.

When Xi did assume the top spot in 2012, it was as head of a re-

duced seven-member committee on which he had only one reliable ally, veteran Wang Qishan. He put Wang in charge of a sweeping anti-corruption crackdown that helped Xi eliminate challengers, both serving and retired, and cow potential opponents.

Xi, whose titles include head of the armed forces, has lavished attention on the military with parades and defense budget increases. But he's also led a crackdown on abuses and a push to cut 300,000 personnel from the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army, underscoring his ability to prevail against entrenched interests.

Party members call on leader to change his Brexit stance

Associated Press

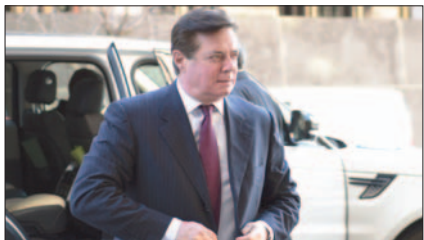
LONDON — British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is facing increasing pressure to change the party's Brexit stance ahead of a key speech on Britain's plan to leave the European Union.

More than 80 senior Labour Party figures signed a statement published Sunday in The Observer calling for Britain to remain in the EU's single market and the customs union after Brexit. The letter says Britain's economy would be so damaged by leaving the single market and customs union that Labour would be unable to carry out its reforms if it comes to power.

The letter states Labour's position in Parliament means it is in a position to prevent Britain from going too far in severing its economic ties to the EU. It says: "For the sake of his support Monday for Britain remaining in the EU's single market and customs union after Brexit."

He said the customs union's benefits to Britain's economy are clear because it would greatly ease trade with Europe once Britain leaves the EU, which is expected at the end of March 2019.

WORLD



SUSAN WALSH/AP

A new indictment against Paul Manafort accuses the former Donald Trump campaign chairman of paying former European leaders to lobby on behalf of Ukraine.

Indictment accuses Manafort of paying Europeans to lobby

By DMYTRO VLASOV
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — A new indictment against former Donald Trump campaign chief Paul Manafort focused a spotlight Saturday on uncovering the former European leaders who prosecutors contend were secretly paid by Manafort to lobby on behalf of Ukraine.

The U.S. indictment handed up Friday by a grand jury doesn't name the European politicians, although it notes they worked in coordination with Manafort, his deputy Rick Gates and two Washington lobbying firms — the Podesta Group and Mercury Public Affairs — to lobby U.S. officials and lawmakers.

At least four leaders — former Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer, former Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski and former Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko — were named last year in public filings by the two lobbying firms. The firms said the politicians were involved in U.S. speaking events and meetings with U.S. lawmakers and others to promote Manafort's client at

the time, Ukraine's pro-Moscow president, Viktor Yanukovich.

The filings did not disclose any payments to the former officials, and it's unclear if they are the same politicians referenced in the U.S. indictment.

U.S. law requires people who are lobbying U.S. officials on behalf of foreign governments or political parties to register, and a Justice Department database doesn't show that those former European officials did.

But it's unclear from the U.S. indictment how much the former European politicians knew about their funding or if they could be covered by some legal exemption.

The lobbying by the European political figures, identified in the indictment as the "Hapsburg Group," allegedly took place in 2012-13, when Ukraine was moving toward closer integration with the European Union. But the indictment doesn't formally charge any of the leaders or refer to them as co-conspirators of Manafort and Gates.

None of the four politicians responded to requests for comment Saturday from The Associated Press but three of them were quoted as denying the reports.

'Putin's chef' runs media sites along with troll farm

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
Associated Press

MOSCOW — He's been indicted in the U.S. for meddling in the 2016 presidential election with an army of trolls, and his private military company has trodden battlefields in Ukraine and Syria. Still, the Russian multimillionaire dubbed "Putin's chef" runs yet another asset that is valuable to the Kremlin: a sprawling Russian media empire.

St. Petersburg restaurateur Yevgeny Prigozhin is believed to control more than a dozen news portals in Russia that attract tens of millions of visitors and serve as an important state propaganda weapon as President Vladimir Putin runs for re-election in the March 18 vote.

While the media outlets themselves have been tight-lipped about their owners, an investigation by the respected RBC business magazine and reports by other Russian media have revealed their connections to other Prigozhin assets, including the "troll farm," 12 of whose operatives were indicted in the U.S. along with Prigozhin.

The troll factory, the innocuously named Internet Research Agency, initially operated under the same roof with the Federal News Agency and other media outlets that allegedly belong to Prigozhin, but later they split and moved to different buildings on the northern edge of St. Petersburg. RBC reported that Mikhail Burchik, one of the indicted troll farm operatives, also played a key role in Prigozhin's media holdings.

Just three years after their creation in 2014, the Federal News Agency and 15 other news portals allegedly under Prigozhin's control had more than 30 million monthly visitors, surpassing Russia's top state news agencies. They have covered a wide range of subjects, from foreign policy to economy to celebrities. And



ALEXED DRUZHININ, SPUTNIK/AP

Businessman Yevgeny Prigozhin, left, shows Russian President Vladimir Putin around his factory in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2010. Prigozhin is believed to run more than a dozen news sites in Russia.

while their profiles differed, the editorial course was identical — adulation of Putin and stinging criticism of the West.

"They want to dominate the information space and shape the news agenda," said Moscow-based political analyst Dmitry Oreshkin.

He noted that along with the troll farm and private military contractors, the media business is part of Prigozhin's efforts to curry favor with Putin.

Oreshkin pointed at Prigozhin's estimated \$1.2 billion contract with the Defense Ministry to provide food and services for the military as an example of reward the businessman gets for the favors he offers the Kremlin.

"Close links with the top echelons of power open access to state contracts," he said. "Those who have such ties are never short of money."

The Federal News Agency, the largest of 16 media outlets allegedly controlled by Prigozhin, has

carried a stream of fawning accounts of Putin's activities along with articles containing scathing criticism of the U.S. and its allies. As the presidential election approaches, it has regularly published glances and quote boxes about how life has improved under Putin.

Economics Today, a business news portal also considered part of Prigozhin's empire, ran an article emphasizing the importance of turning out to vote in the presidential election in sync with the Kremlin's push for maximizing attendance at the polls to make Putin's victory more impressive.

Prigozhin's media outlets employ several hundred journalists, offering higher salaries than other St. Petersburg-based media outlets, according to RBC. It estimated the annual cost of running Prigozhin's media empire at \$3.2 million to \$4.7 million.

Prigozhin hasn't responded to requests for an interview.

Iceland's proposal to ban most circumcisions draws opposition

By EGILL BJARNASON
Associated Press

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — Icelandic lawmakers are considering a law that would ban the circumcision of boys for nonmedical reasons, making it the first European country to do so.

Some religious leaders in Iceland and across Europe have called the bill an attack on religious freedom. It is seen as a particular threat by Jews and Muslims who traditionally embrace the practice.

Under the proposed law, the circumcision of boys — removing the foreskin of the penis, usually when the child is a newborn — would be viewed as equal to female genital mutilation and punishable by up to six years in prison.

"This is fundamentally about not causing unnecessary harm to a child," said Sijla Dagg Gunnarsdottir, lawmaker for the centrist Progressive Party, who introduced the bill this month.

The proposed law calls circumcision a violation of human rights "since boys are not able to give an informed consent of an irreversible physical intervention."

Circumcision is not common in Iceland, a small Atlantic Ocean island nation of 340,000 people that is overwhelmingly Lutheran or atheist, with an estimated 100 to 200 Jews and about 1,100 practicing Muslims.

The bill has eight co-sponsors but is considered unlikely to get a majority in the 63-seat Icelandic parliament. It does not have the formal backing of any government

ministers but has drawn the support of 422 Icelandic doctors who favor outlawing the 4,000-year-old religious practice.

They issued a joint statement last week saying circumcision violates the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and also the physicians' Hippocratic Oath that says, "First, do no harm."

"In Western societies, circumcision of healthy boys has no significant health benefits," the doctors' statement read, citing a 2013 paper in the American Academy of Pediatrics journal.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said doctors should educate infant boys' parents about the health benefits of circumcision, which it says reduces the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV.

During Friday services at a prayer space above a home goods store, Imam Salmani Tamimi warned his multinational congregation about the proposed law.

"Circumcision is harmless if it's done at a hospital," he said. "This bill is appealing to people's emotion, not evidence."

He said circumcision was important to Muslims but even more so to Jews.

"This is an attack on all religion and especially Judaism," he said.

Rabbi Avi Feldman, of the Chabad Jewish Center, said he hopes the bill does not become law. In a statement to The Associated Press, he said circumcision is a core Jewish practice that serves as a bedrock of Jewish life. He was hopeful that the "rights for people of all faiths will be preserved and respected."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ex-crime lab chemist charged with meth theft

MT MISSOULA — A former chemist at Montana's state crime lab in Missoula is charged with taking meth left over after testing for suspected drugs in criminal cases.

Court records say the chemist's brother-in-law told police the man confessed to using meth taken from the lab.

The chemist told investigators the lab's drug-testing process does not use the entire sample. The remainder was supposed to be destroyed.

He faces three counts each of felony criminal possession of dangerous drugs, misdemeanor theft and misdemeanor official misconduct. Lab officials are working to determine if any criminal cases have been compromised.

Officials ask governor to remove sheriff

MI JACKSON — Officials in Jackson County are asking Gov. Rick Snyder to remove their sheriff from office over insulting remarks about women and minorities.

A letter was sent Friday by the county's Board of Commissioners. Chairman Steve Shotwell Jr. said Sheriff Steven Rand's conduct is a "threat to the core values of the community."

Rand has apologized for the offensive recorded remarks, which were released by an attorney who represents a lieutenant in the sheriff's department. He said he won't resign and leave his mess for "other people to clean up."

Firefighters help deliver baby boy

VA HENRICO COUNTY — Two firefighters in Henrico County helped deliver a healthy baby boy.

WRIC-TV reported that a frantic father pulled up to a Henrico firehouse earlier this month with a woman in labor in the car.

Firefighter Mike Boisseau said the woman "had pretty much delivered on her own, so we just helped the last little bit."

The 14-year department veteran helped deliver the child with firefighter Matt Daugherty. Both firefighters were trained in childbirth, but neither had delivered a baby before.

Young elephant at zoo dies of viral infection

MO ST. LOUIS — A popular Asian elephant at the Saint Louis Zoo has died.

The zoo said 6-year-old Kenzi died of a viral infection — elephant endothelotropic herpesvirus, or EEHV — known to be fatal to elephants.

Zoo officials said Kenzi was diagnosed with the virus Feb. 20 and immediately was given antiviral medication. She died early Saturday morning.

Police: Woman poops in pants to hide drugs

TX CORSCIANA — Police said a Texas woman at-

THE CENSUS

\$600K

The approximate amount a former U.S. Forest Service ranger must pay to a disabled Army veteran and another camper over the use of excessive force during their 2014 arrests in mountains east of Albuquerque, N.M. U.S. District Judge Judith Herrera awarded the judgment to Adam Griego and Elijah Haukewid in their suit against David Chavez. Chavez handcuffed Griego and slammed his face into the hood of Chavez's truck and his head into a door frame. Chavez threatened Haukewid with a stun gun and a dog before handcuffing him.



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND, RICHMOND (VA.) TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

Shiver in the river

From left, Shamin Hotels employees Chrissy White, Jenny Monokrousos, Erika Montenegro, Crystal Charlonne, Cheryl Moore and CEO Neil Amin walk off a sandbank Saturday in the James River in Richmond, Va., during Shiver in the River to benefit Keep Virginia Beautiful. The event was part of the Coolest Winter Festival in Richmond.

tempted to hide evidence during an arrest by defecating in her pants to conceal drugs.

Officers in Corsicana were investigating a report of a theft at a grocery store Wednesday when they attempted to subdue a female suspect and take her into custody.

Police said they placed Shannen Martin into the back of a police cruiser, where they say she intentionally defecated in her pants, then hid a crack pipe, 2.3 grams of crack cocaine and a Valentine's Day card in her excrement.

Officers had to sift through the woman's feces to retrieve the evidence after Martin was booked on charges of tampering with evidence and possession of a controlled substance.

McDonald's manager sought in shooting

OH CLEVELAND — Police said a McDonald's late-night manager who fired shots at a man in a Cleveland drive-thru line is wanted for felonious assault.

Cleveland.com reported an ar-

rest warrant was issued Thursday for Mark Fort, 52, after police said he shot at a customer's car Wednesday.

Police reports say Fort handed three women in a car a smoothie and a woman in the backseat splashed water outside the car as it pulled away. The women told police they heard Fort call them names, followed by two gunshots.

No one was injured. Police found a bullet hole near one of the car's taillights.

Mom, surveillance video clear brothers of crime

MO ST. LOUIS — Two St. Louis men are cleared of criminal wrongdoing, thanks to their tenacious mother and surveillance video.

The man who told police that the brothers tried to rob him last summer is now charged as the real culprit. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Patrick John Owens, 29, was charged Wednesday with robbery, assault and other crimes.

Owens told police Jerry Tate, 23, and Christopher Tate, 25, ap-

proached his parked car about 3:15 a.m. Aug. 26 and started a fight. Police initially believed Owens.

Court documents say the video cleared the Tates and showed that Owens tried to rob them before shooting Christopher Tate, injuring his hand and face.

Police: Man drives into water, charged with DUI

RI CRANSTON — Authorities said a Massachusetts man who drove his pickup over a seawall and into the water in Rhode Island was charged with driving under the influence.

Police said the truck crashed into the water late Friday near the Rhode Island Yacht Club. Police identified the driver as Tom Moitoso, 42, of Taunton.

Moitoso was taken to the hospital with minor injuries, and his truck was towed from the scene.

Man sought after shots fired in theater

NC GREENVILLE — Police in North Carolina

are looking for a man who they are fired shots inside a movie theater.

Greenville police told local media outlets at least one shot was fired into the ceiling of one of the theaters at the AMC Theater late Friday night.

Investigators said the shooting stemmed from an argument over seating. No one was hurt, but the theater was evacuated as a precaution.

5 taken to hospital after truck hits home

MD ST. MARY'S COUNTY — Five people were taken to a hospital after a truck veered off a roadway and smashed into a home in St. Mary's County.

WBFF-TV reported the tractor-trailer truck crashed into a home on Budds Creek Road around 6 a.m. Saturday.

The sheriff's office in St. Mary's said the truck driver and a woman, man and two juveniles inside the splintered home were transported to a hospital.

From wire reports

FACES

Mae Whitman enjoys being one of the 'Good Girls'



NBC

Mae Whitman is Annie Marks on the new TV series "Good Girls." Whitman, a native of Los Angeles, has been acting since the age of 4.

Actress splits her long career between onscreen and voiceover roles

By RICK BENTLEY
Tribune News Service

Television shows and films are filled with male anti-heroes who don't mind breaking the law if it's done for a good reason. Having the anti-hero be a suburban mom who spends more time making lunches than planning a heist is something very different.

NBC's new series "Good Girls" features that offbeat concept. Christina Hendricks, Retta, and Mae Whitman play the three partners in crime who see a small

robbery as a way of getting out of financial trouble turn into a series of illegal misadventures.

Whitman loved the idea that "Good Girls" immediately jumps into the question of morals and justification systems, what is good and what's evil. The big question for her was how far a person would go to protect their family. In the case of her character, Annie is involved in a heated battle with her ex-husband over their child, and a few dollars would help even the sides.

"I think in every episode there's a question that comes up of a moral

justification or something that we end up giving a little bit more away of the things that we're able to justify," Whitman says. "I think that's going to be a really fun thing for us, to see how far into that we go and how sort of deep into the question of is what they're doing right or wrong and who are they hurting in the process, and who are they saving in the process. There's so much. It's just action packed with emotion and action."

"All these different issues keep coming up. At least for me, I look forward to reading every single script because there's something

in there that brings up a real question that's really a debatable situation."

The way Whitman looks at the project is "Good Girls" is all about women taking back their power, and that makes it very timely. She knows there are a lot of women who feel like they can't do anything about their life, but the series shows there are ways to make a change. Taking the illegal route isn't highly recommended, but Whitman says the key is it's up to each person to find the way to make a change.

Even when it comes to Whit-

man's acting career — which began when she was 4 — the Los Angeles native has found ways to make changes in the jobs she takes. That has included a long list of jobs as a voice actor in projects such as "Avatar: The Last Airbender," "The Cleveland Show," "Pixie Hollow Games" and "DC Super Hero Girls." Not many people can say they are the voice of April O'Neil in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and Tinker Bell in several direct-to-video films starring Peter Pan's sidekick.

The process is very different between being onscreen and being a voice actor, but Whitman gets just as much satisfaction from both. She calls those who work in the voice world as being some of the most talented and unsung workers in Hollywood.

Whitman has a little problem being impartial when it comes to voice actors, as her mother, Pat Musick, worked in recording studios for years. She would hang out at the studios with her mother and would be called on when a voice for a young girl was needed.

"To me, voiceover has been such a huge part of my life and I love it so much," Whitman says. "I tend to play more interesting, outside-the-box characters and it's great with cartoons that you can jump right in and be whoever you want, do whatever you want."

"I also love wearing sweatpants and not having to wear makeup."

Whitman is particularly proud of being part of the "DC Super Hero Girls" series because it is about all the female heroes in the DC universe — Wonder Woman, Supergirl, Hawkgirl, Harley Quinn — at a young age. Being the voice of Batgirl is just Whitman's latest foray into the world of superhero cartoons. Whitman also has provided the voice of Wonder Girl in the "Young Justice" animated series. "I have bounced around in the superhero universe and I like it. I'm going to keep bouncing," Whitman says with a laugh.

'Girls Trip' star to host upcoming MTV Movie & TV Awards

From wire reports

Tiffany Haddish is set to host the 2018 MTV Movie & TV Awards.

The network announced Feb. 22 that the "Girls Trip" breakout star will host the ceremony in Los Angeles on June 18.

The 38-year-old actress and comedian has seen her star rise since "Girls Trip" was released last summer. She's gone on to host "Saturday Night Live" and star in a Super Bowl commercial. Haddish also helped announce the Academy Award nominees last month and will appear on the Oscar telecast March 4.

She's also starring with Tracy Morgan in a new TBS sitcom called "The Last OG" and will appear alongside Kevin Hart in the film "Night School" later this year.

Poehler, 'Parks and Rec' team blast NRA on Twitter

The NRA tried to use Leslie Knope to promote its "pro-slaughter agenda," and the cast and showrunner of the hit NBC comedy "Parks and Recreation" were not having it.

Creator and writer Mike Schur immediately responded to the National Rifle Association's use of a Knope GIF saying "Thank You," which was directed to the organization's spokeswoman, Dana Loesch,

who fielded questions at the Florida town hall from the school shooting survivors, victim's families and residents.

Schur, using his Twitter handle @KenTremendous, wrote, "Hi, please take this down. I would prefer you not use a GIF from a show I worked on to promote your pro-slaughter agenda."

He also included that Poehler, who does not have her own account, texted him asking for him to respond. "She texted me a message: 'Can you tweet the NRA for me and tell them I said f--- off.'"

Actor Nick Offerman, who portrayed Ron Swanson on the series, also had some choice words for the NRA — again labeling them "pro-slaughter."

The tweet was posted just before 11 p.m. Feb. 21 and hadn't been taken down by the morning of Feb. 22.

Blige, Day, Common among Oscars music performers

The original singers of the year's five Oscar-nominated songs will reprise their performances live on the Oscar stage.

Academy Awards producers said Feb. 23 that supporting actresses nominee Mary J. Blige, Common, Andra Day, Gael Garcia Bernal, Miguel, Natalia Lafourcade, Keala

Settle and Sufjan Stevens will perform during the March 4 ceremony.

Blige will sing "Mighty River" from "Mudbound," for which she is also nominated for supporting actress. Oscar-winner Common and Day will perform "Stand Up for Something" from "Marshall." Bernal, Miguel and Lafourcade will sing "Remember Me" from "Coco."

Settle is singing "The Greatest Showman" track "This is Me," and Stevens will perform "Mystery of Love" from "Call Me by Your Name."

British comedian Stephen Fry reveals he has prostate cancer

British comedian and actor Stephen Fry has revealed that he is suffering from prostate cancer.

The 60-year-old Fry said Feb. 23 on his Twitter page that he has been fighting the disease for the past two months.

He says he had surgery in January to remove the prostate.

"It all seemed to go pretty well," he said, apologizing for his inability to talk about the cancer until now.

"For the last two months I've been in the throes of a rather unwelcome and unexpected adventure," he says.



AP

"Girls Trip" star Tiffany Haddish will be the host of the MTV Movie & TV Awards.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Tax law boosts income, budgets in some states

By MELINDA DESLATTE
AND GEOFF MULVHILL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Republican tax overhaul is giving most Americans a break on their federal income taxes. But fallout from the same law means many people could actually see their state income taxes rise.

For some state governments, the prospect of getting more revenue without actively raising taxes is almost too good to be true, but it also forces Republican governors and lawmakers into a corner. Do they stay true to the party's long-standing tax-cut philosophy or keep the extra money rolling in to address their states' budget gaps and other spending priorities?

The answer so far in this year's legislative sessions: It depends.

Pushes to reduce taxes have

arisen in GOP-leaning states including Iowa, Michigan, Utah and Georgia, where the GOP governor has proposed cuts after initially insisting the state should wait.

But in Louisiana, where the Democratic governor and GOP-controlled legislature are grappling with a financial morass, there has been no proposal to return to taxpayers the expected revenue increase of \$300 million in the budget year starting July 1.

That's because the state is expecting a \$1 billion shortfall, and state legislatures, unlike Congress, are required to have balanced budgets.

Workers in the state saw more in their paychecks in January when employers changed federal withholding but noticed another change in February: Withholding was up a bit to reflect higher state taxes. Lawmakers say they have

been getting questions from constituents about that.

States are still sorting out what the GOP tax overhaul adopted by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump in December will mean for them, and the answers depend largely on how each state's tax policy is linked to federal law. In some states, the changes could be immediate; in others, they're likely to take time.

One of the big changes under the new tax law is the elimination of personal exemptions. A bigger standard deduction, higher child tax credits and lower tax rate will mean lower federal taxes for most. But the loss of the exemptions in states means more of residents' income is taxed.

In a handful of states, including Louisiana, the ability to deduct federal taxes paid on state income tax returns is a major factor. Any-

one paying less in federal taxes can see their state bill rise.

States' own estimates of the impact run from around \$100 million annually in Idaho and Iowa to \$800 million in Minnesota. Oregon expects revenue to be down.

Meg Wiehe, deputy director of the liberal Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, recommended against states making tax cuts now because the effects of the federal changes remain uncertain and many of them are technically temporary.

Kansas has had deep budget problems for years, after the income tax cuts championed by former Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican, failed to provide the stimulus he had promised. Last year, lawmakers agreed to raise taxes, and the state's top court ordered lawmakers to pump more money into public schools.

Mark Desetti, a lobbyist for the state's largest teachers union, said that's why the \$505 million expected to come to the state over three years because of the federal tax changes is so welcome.

"It seems to me the wise thing to do would be to take advantage of this so that you don't have to raise taxes to deal with all of those things, or you can raise them less if you find you need to and see where it goes," he said.

But that might not be the course followed by the Republicans who control the Legislature.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 26)	\$1.2623
Dollar buys (Feb. 26)	€0.7922
British pound (Feb. 26)	\$1.43
Japanese yen (Feb. 26)	104.00
South Korean won (Feb. 26)	1,050.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.3983
Canada (Dollar)	1.2689
China (Yuan)	6.3373
Denmark (Krone)	0.0525
Egypt (Pound)	17.6913
Euro	\$1.2302/0.8129
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.8232
Hungary (Forint)	254.45
Israel (Shekel)	3.4920
Japan (Yen)	106.78
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2999
Norway (Krone)	7.8518
Philippines (Peso)	51.73
Poland (Zloty)	3.39
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.4987
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3215
South Korea (Won)	1,077.53
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9352
Thailand (Baht)	31.44
Turkey (Lira)	3.7923

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.00
Federals funds market rate	2.00
3-month bill	1.61
30-year bond	3.16

Warren Buffett says good deals are tough to find

By JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Investor Warren Buffett says Wall Street's list for deals has prompted CEOs to act like oversexed teenagers and overpay for acquisitions, so it has been hard to find deals for Berkshire Hathaway.

In his annual letter to shareholders Saturday, Buffett mixed investment advice with details of how Berkshire's many businesses performed. Buffett blamed his recent acquisition drought on ambitious CEOs who have been encouraged to take on debt to finance pricey deals.

"If Wall Street analysts or board members urge that brand of CEO to consider possible acquisitions, it's a bit like telling your ripening teenager to be sure to have a normal sex life," Buffett said.

Berkshire is also facing more competition for acquisitions from private equity firms and

other companies, such as privately held Koch Industries.

Buffett, 87, is sitting on \$116 billion of cash and bonds because he's struggled to find acquisitions at sensible prices. And Buffett is unwilling to load up on debt to finance deals.

"We will stick with our simple guideline: The best prudence with which others conduct their affairs, the greater the prudence with which we must conduct our own," Buffett wrote.

He said the conglomerate recorded a \$29 billion paper gain because of the tax returns Congress passed late last year. That helped it generate \$4.9 billion profit last year, up from \$24.1 billion the previous year.

Buffett's letter is always well-read in the business world because of his remarkable track record over more than five decades and his talent for explaining complicated subjects in plain language. But this year's letter left some investors wanting more because he didn't say much

about Berkshire's succession plan, some noteworthy investment moves or the company's new partnership with Amazon and JP Morgan Chase to reduce health care costs.

But Buffett did offer some sage investment advice based on his victory in a 10-year bet he made with a group of hedge funds. The S&P 500 index fund Buffett backed generated an 8.5 percent average annual gain and easily outperced the hedge funds.

Buffett said it's important for people to invest money regularly regardless of the market's ups and downs but watch out for investment fees which will eat away at returns.

Succeeding in the stock market requires the discipline to act sensibly when markets do crazy things. Buffett said investors need "an ability to both disregard mob fears or enthusiasms and to focus on a few simple fundamentals. A willingness to look unimaginative for a sustained period — or even to look foolish — is also essential."

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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OPINION

Congress needs to take back war powers

By MARC J. SELVERSTONE
Special To The Washington Post

The rush to war. The use of faulty intelligence. A seemingly unending conflict, with few discernible checks on the presidential use of military force.

While these ghosts of Vietnam prefigure elements of America's wars in South Asia and the Middle East — indeed, around the globe — what's different about the political climate then and now is that 50 years ago last week, the U.S. Senate decided to do something about it. That effort, though late in coming, serves as a telling reminder to our Congress about its proper role — even its duty — to pronounce on when and why the president can send U.S. forces into harm's way and in our country's name.

Eager to claw back some of the power it had relinquished to the executive branch as the United States ratcheted up the war in Vietnam, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Sen. J. William Fulbright, D-Ark., held a hearing in February 1968 on the Tonkin Gulf Incidents — the murky events of August 1964 that resulted in Congress giving President Lyndon B. Johnson a “blank check authorization for further action,” as Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara described it. This authorization opened the door to America's escalation of the conflict.

In essence, Congress transferred its war powers to the president, sanctioning all levels of military activity without a declaration of war.

That fateful move came after Johnson and his aides received reports that North Vietnamese torpedo boats had attacked a U.S. destroyer, the USS Maddox, on Aug. 2, 1964, and the destroyer Turner Joy and the Maddox again on Aug. 4. To them, it suggested that Hanoi was intensifying its war against South Vietnam and its American patron. Having held his fire after the Aug. 2 attack, Johnson responded to the apparent second incident with airstrikes, the first U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

Johnson then used the incident to amass sweeping authority for waging war in Southeast Asia. Maintaining that the North Vietnamese raids were “unprovoked,” the administration introduced into Congress the Southeast Asia Resolution — now known colloquially as the Tonkin Gulf Resolution — which authorized the president “to take all necessary measure to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent any further aggression.” It fell to Fulbright to steer the resolution through its nearly unanimous adoption by the Senate.

But questions about what actually happened on Aug. 4, which the Johnson administration knocked down then and thereafter, nagged at Fulbright. Not only were there indications that raids on North Vietnam had provoked the engagements, there was also suspicion that the Aug. 4 incident had never even occurred. Fulbright's unease only grew as the president sent American troops abroad — first to the Dominican Republic in April 1965 in an alleged effort to protect U.S. citizens from a Communist coup, and then in considerably greater numbers to Vietnam.

Fulbright's unease led to action. His investigation of the Dominican episode in the summer and fall of 1965 revealed that Johnson had misled Congress and the public over key facts of the intervention. His exposure of this “credibility gap” added to his suspicion about what had taken place in the Tonkin Gulf, and to growing discomfort with his own role in the legislation that followed.

It also shattered the relationship between

In essence, Congress transferred its war powers to the president, sanctioning all levels of military activity without a declaration of war.

these two former Senate colleagues from the South. Johnson regarded Fulbright's actions as traitorous. His anger deepened in February 1966 when Fulbright held critical, televised hearings on Vietnam, and then peaked as Fulbright warned of an “arrogance of power” infecting the conduct of U.S. foreign relations.

By the summer, with more than 400,000 Americans serving in Vietnam and the administration continuing to invoke the Tonkin Gulf resolution as authority for its escalation, Fulbright's earlier discomfort turned into deep regret, setting the stage for another confrontation between the senator and the president.

With Senate Foreign Relations Committee aides and anonymous Pentagon tipsters passing disclosures about the events of August 1964 to Fulbright, and no end to the Vietnam War in sight, Fulbright decided to hold a hearing on the Tonkin Gulf. He was hardly alone in wanting a better picture of how and why Johnson had secured congressional approval for an expanded U.S. commitment, especially since it had recently come to light that the administration had drafted the Tonkin Gulf Resolution weeks before the incidents that led to its passage.

The one-day session before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee took place on Feb. 20, 1968 — just three weeks after the onset of the Tet offensive, and with the bloody battle for Hue still raging. Fueling the already tense atmosphere were rumblings that the administration was considering the dispatch of another 200,000 troops to Vietnam. Looming over everything was the New Hampshire presidential primary, roughly two weeks away, in which Johnson faced a challenge from the antiwar Sen. Eugene McCarthy, D-Minn.

Lasting more than seven hours, the hearing centered on claims that the Johnson administration had rushed the country to war, misled Congress and the public about the Tonkin incidents and then covered its tracks when officials, legislators and journalists began to sniff out the truth.

To the charge that sabotage operations against North Vietnam had prompted a reprisal against the Maddox on Aug. 2, 1964, McNamara was defiant, indignant — and dishonest. His denial before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1968 belied his candid remarks to the president four years earlier. Just hours after the first incident had occurred, he told Johnson there was “no question that the strikes against North Vietnamese installations had precipitated the reprisal attack. In the wake of those initial raids, the presence of the Maddox in the same area “undoubtedly led them to connect the two events.” In fact, it was an open secret among senior officials that those activities were related.

To the even more explosive charge that the Aug. 4 attack on U.S. destroyers had never occurred — a matter of some dispute at the time within intelligence circles, the military and the Johnson administration itself — McNamara was equally and emphatically dismissive. Desperate to bolster his case, he introduced “highly classified intelligence from an unimpeachable source” that allegedly confirmed the existence of the second attack.

“We’ve got to say it,” he told Johnson the day before his testimony, “because it’s the best evidence we have that an attack

took place on the fourth.”

While McNamara may well have believed in the accuracy of that source, it has since been revealed that intelligence officials falsified intercepted communications to convey the appearance of a second attack in an effort to conceal earlier errors in reporting.

In all, the hearing was contentious, its participants combative. Neither the senators nor the administration gave ground, and after it came to a close, the drama spilled out of the closed committee room and to the waiting press corps. Although participants had agreed to withhold details of the proceedings, McNamara violated that pledge by criticizing the hearings and providing reporters with a lengthy statement defending the administration.

Fulbright, in turn, let loose. He charged the administration not only with misleading Congress and the public, but with covering up its knowledge of the incidents. The “credibility gap” that Fulbright helped to open in 1965 was now a yawning chasm.

The administration was furious. As McNamara told Johnson the following day, Fulbright's real objective, as well as that of the senators who now voiced similar misgivings, was “to prove that they were misled, and had they known at the time the facts of the Tonkin Gulf situation, they never would have supported the resolution, and hence, would not, in any way, be responsible for the escalation in military operations — out there that has occurred since then.”

Responsible or not, Fulbright regretted his role in passing the resolution “more than anything I have ever done in my life.” He argued that the “resolution, like any contract based on misrepresentation, in my opinion, is null and void.”

Congress did not formally rescind the resolution until 1971, but by then the war had changed. President Richard Nixon was “Vietnamizing” the conflict and bringing American troops home, taking some of the sting out of the antiwar movement.

Yet Congress was clearly reasserting itself — not just in repealing the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, but through efforts to control funding for the war, and ultimately through legislation that sought to delineate the use of war powers. That trajectory owed much to Fulbright's efforts — essential contributions in striking a balance between executive and legislative control over the use of force abroad.

That balance is now gone.

With the United States now engaged in what observers have described as a “forever war” across multiple theaters, it is time for Congress to reassert itself and conduct rigorous hearings on the scope, rationale and wisdom of these military activities. At the very least, it should reinvent the legislation that authorized them more than 15 years ago and establish a positive consensus for their continuation. Endless or not, this war must have the affirmation and support of the American people and their elected representatives. Perhaps this is one lesson of Vietnam we can all agree on.

Marc J. Selverstone is an associate professor and chair of the presidential records program at the University of Virginia's Miller Center and author of “Constructing the Monolith: The United States, Great Britain, and International Communism, 1945-1950.”

OPINION

America needs a universal paid leave program

BY ROBERT E. RUBIN

Special To The Washington Post

Twenty-five years ago, President Bill Clinton signed into law the Family and Medical Leave Act, designed to help workers address the dual responsibilities of work and family. The legislation gives workers a protected right to take unpaid time off to care for a new child, a sick family member or their own health. But the FMLA was a landmark achievement; it doesn't go far enough. American workers and businesses need a universal paid leave program.

And we need it now. Although the economy has been in recovery, too few people have benefited from growth. Many remain outside the labor force. The economically destructive forces of globalization and rapid technological change have left many workers facing wage stagnation and limited opportunity. And, critically, millions of women who should be gainfully employed are simply not participating in the labor market. This hinders growth in the real economy and negatively affects the well-being of families and children.

One of the last century's great economic accomplishments was the growing number of women entering the workforce. Economists have estimated that between 1979 and 2012, women's rising hours of paid work boosted U.S. gross domestic product by 11 percent. Because the increase in women's paid work coincided with men dropping out of the labor force, women kept household income from declining.

But the trend has reversed, and women's participation in the workforce has declined by 3 percentage points since 2000, with the most notable drop among those with less than a bachelor's degree. In short, the shock of a lost income. The absence of work-family policies such as paid leave explains about a third of that decline, according to research by Cornell University economists Francine Blau and Lawrence Kahn.

The FMLA has been used more than 200 million times by families, with relatively little burden on employers. But the law covers only about 60 percent of workers, and only about a fifth of those who take leave are new mothers. It gives them up to 12 weeks of leave, but with no pay — an impossible situation for many employees.

Parents, especially mothers, often return to work within a few weeks — or days — of a child's birth, with long-term consequences for both mother and child. Others cut back their hours or quit their jobs altogether, which is harmful to families and the U.S. economy alike.

Employer-sponsored paid leave coverage is available to only about 15 percent of U.S. workers. Only a handful of states — California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, New York and Washington state, plus the District of Columbia — have enacted paid leave policies that cover all workers and provide adequate temporary replacement income. These jurisdictions are a model for what a paid family leave program can accomplish. But, as a joint report by the Brookings Institution and American En-

Studies show paid leave increases the likelihood that workers will return to their original employer and remain in the labor force.

terprise Institute concluded, state programs alone are insufficient.

It's time to enact a national universal paid leave program. It should include the principles laid out by the Washington Center for Equitable Growth, Bertie Ansel and Heather Boushey in a paper published last fall by the Hamilton Project: Offer at least 12 weeks of leave to men and women for childbirth and adoption, care of a relative's serious medical condition or a personal medical issue; cover all private-sector workers; and pay those workers a replacement wage high enough to make a difference in their lives. Doing so would provide an immense benefit to workers and their families and be very good for the overall economy.

Experience from the states teaches us that thoughtful interventions can create good outcomes. After California adopted the nation's first paid leave program, maternal employment expanded. Studies of California and the other states show that paid leave increases the likelihood that workers will return to their original employer and remain in the labor force. Work-

ers without paid leave are more likely to postpone or never receive critical medical treatments, harming productivity and resulting in costlier care later on. Research shows that workers with access to paid leave are less likely to take advantage of public benefits such as food stamps, reducing fiscal strain on those programs.

As for businesses, research by BCG finds that paid family leave “can deliver significant rewards that outweigh the costs,” including “improved employee retention, the ability to attract the best talent, reinforced company values, [and] improved employee engagement, morale, and productivity.” And a working paper released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development concludes that reducing the gender gap in labor force participation would strengthen our economy significantly.

In this age of partisanship and polarization, it is notable that progressive Democrats such as Rep. Rosa DeLauro, of Connecticut, conservative Republicans such as Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida, and the Trump administration have all recently embraced the concept of paid family leave.

Agreement on a bipartisan, comprehensive paid leave bill is within reach. The federal government should build on the success of the Family and Medical Leave Act by enacting a nationwide paid leave program.

Robert E. Rubin, a co-chairman emeritus of the Council on Foreign Relations, was treasury secretary from 1995 to 1999.

VA, Roe tie caregiver benefit expansion to tightened eligibility

BY TOM PHILLPOT

Special to Stars and Stripes

In drafting legislation that would expand comprehensive caregiver benefits to severely injured veterans of all past wars, Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, directed staff this month to start with the proposal announced by Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin at a Feb. 6 committee hearing.

Shulkin said he supports extending caregiver benefits — which includes a monthly stipend, access to health care insurance, caregiver training, stress counseling and a period of paid respite away from caregiver responsibilities — to people who care for veterans catastrophically injured in wars back to World War II.

However, as a condition for making benefits available to veterans injured before the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, Shulkin wants Congress to narrow eligibility criteria. Post-9/11 veterans now qualify for the comprehensive benefits only if their physical or mental injuries prevent them from performing one or more activities of daily living, whether bathing, preparing meals or dressing themselves. It's a level of caregiver need medical experts describe as Tier 1.

Shulkin proposes that Congress align the VA plan's eligibility criteria with other caregiver programs that provide benefits only if those injured cannot perform three or more activities of daily living, a Tier 3 threshold. He described this as a “more clinically appropriate criteria” than the Post-9/11 law mandated since 2011.

However, Shulkin said the 26,000 caregivers now drawing benefits under that law should be protected from the changes for as long as they meet the looser criteria. He also said the law should more clearly spell out that veterans are eligible for caregiver benefits if they suffer severe cogni-

MILITARY UPDATE

tive dysfunction.

“I think that's something we could carry to the Congress and get passed,” Roe told Shulkin after he shared his proposal. No committee member disagreed.

If the VA caregiver program is expanded as Shulkin envisions, an additional 40,000 veterans would be eligible, he said. If current Post-9/11 benefits were extended to older generations unchanged, 188,000 veterans would be eligible.

The Senate's Veterans' Affairs Committee last December approved and sent to the full Senate the Caring for Our Veterans Act (S 2193), which has provisions to extend the current caregiver program to older generations of war-era veterans in two phases and at an estimated cost of \$3.4 billion over five years. Shulkin's more restrictive plan presumably would cost a quarter of that total.

The VA spent \$500 million last year on its comprehensive caregiver program. VA and veteran service groups both contend caregiver benefits actually save the government billions of dollars because home care avoids the greater cost of sending severely injured vets into nursing facilities. A senior VA official said cost-avoidance under Shulkin's plan could total \$2.5 billion by 2030.

The preference of veteran service organizations is that Congress pass the Senate committee's caregiver expansion, on which the workers' closely watched Patty Murray, D-Wash., to shape and gain the support of her committee colleagues.

At the House hearing, however, Roe asked representatives of two veterans groups, and a nationwide advocacy group for caregivers, if they could support Shulkin's plan. “We support it for older generations but also limit eligibility to vet-

erans with Tier 3 conditions.

“We certainly won't oppose any efforts to expand in any way,” said Sarah Dean, of Paralyzed Veterans of America, emphasizing the unmet needs of caregivers for older severely injured veterans. “And if starting with Tier 3 is what we have to do to start [benefits], we absolutely support that.” But she added, “It just won't be the end of the conversation.”

Steven Schwab, executive director of the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, said it was “encouraging” to hear the VA seriously discuss extending benefits to older generations. The Foundation wants “to explore a timeline of how we move beyond Tier 3 and make sure that all pre-9/11 caregivers who need and deserve support with this benefit receive it, [but] yeah, I think we're open to that.”

Adrian Attizo, with Disabled American Veterans, also didn't reject Shulkin's plan, noting that the foundation wants “to explore a timeline of how we move beyond Tier 3 and make sure that all pre-9/11 caregivers who need and deserve support with this benefit receive it, [but] yeah, I think we're open to that.”

The Senate committee bill with caregiver expansion language is stalled in that chamber over part of the bill that would modify and extend the Choice program for allowing veterans access to non-VA or community health care. A spokeswoman for Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., said the committee chairman continues to support his bill's caregiver expansion plan for older generations. “I think,” she said, “that a woman, Isakson is happy to take a look at what the House proposes.”

Murray, on the other hand, rejects Shulkin's compromise.

“We should be working to expand support for veterans' caregivers, not restricting it even further,” Murray said. “I absolutely oppose this, and I will fight against it any way I can in the Senate.”

Carlos Fuentes, with Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the Senate bill is the ideal and he disagreed with Shulkin that current eligibility rules are too loose.

“Frankly, it doesn't matter how many activities of daily living a veteran isn't able to perform. What matters is if they need the assistance of a caregiver. And there are some cases where being unable to perform one ADL — eating or going to the bathroom or another activity — requires the assistance of a caregiver,” he said.

“Doctors certainly should receive more guidance as to how to make those determinations,” Fuentes said. “But we think that a thoughtful discussion with veterans can be achieved by extending eligibility criteria as is.”

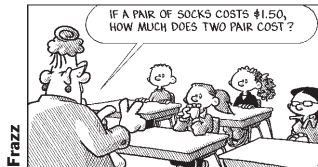
Veteran representatives spent much of their time before the House committee knocking down claims by Republicans that the current caregiver program is widely abused or offers benefits duplicative of other VA programs.

Roe said he supports expanding the caregiver program to older generations but “we must have an honest conversation about the right balance between both the cost and clinical appropriateness of any expansion.” Therefore, he will hold a roundtable discussion with veteran service organizations and members of the House and Senate committees to get feedback on his proposed legislation. That will be followed by a televised hearing where he plans to move caregiver expansion legislation forward to the full House.

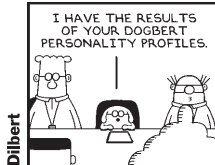
“Caregivers of older generations should recognize now that it's up to Congress to act, Shulkin suggested.

“This is really your decision,” he told the House committee. “The Senate and the House have to come to agreement on this.”

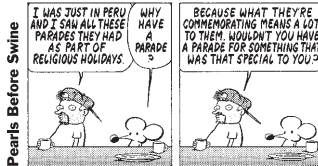
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Frazz



Dilbert



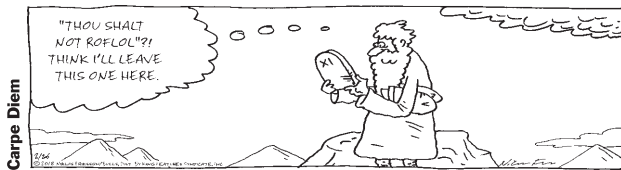
Pearly Before Swine



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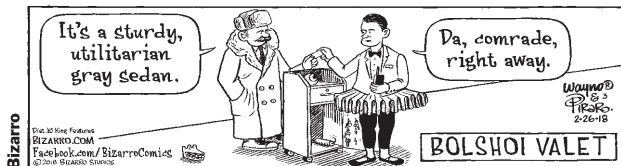
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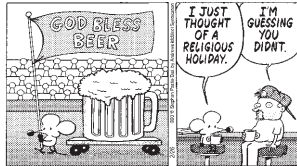
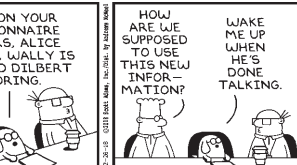
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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42	43							44		45		46
47								48				
49								50				
52								53				54
55								56				57

ACROSS

- 1 Artist Chagall
- 5 Feedbag bit
- 8 Stretches (out)
- 12 Swelled heads
- 13 — tizzy (worked up)
- 14 Peevish fit
- 15 Persian bigwig
- 16 South American capital
- 18 Badger
- 20 Tirade
- 21 Seized vehicle
- 23 Stashed
- 24 Bargain

- shopper's quest
- 28 Office part-timer
- 31 Shock partner
- 32 Vega of "Spy Kids"
- 34 Vichy water
- 35 Hair goops
- 37 Flag-shaped blazer accessory
- 39 IV measures
- 41 Roman emperor
- 42 Parade attractions
- 45 Anderson of CNN
- 49 Street light
- 51 Hot
- 52 Sheltered
- 53 "A pox upon thee!"

DOWN

- 1 Screen material
- 2 Turkish title
- 3 Big laugh
- 4 Note in a D major scale
- 5 Environmental disaster
- 6 Blackbird
- 7 Highland caps
- 8 — de corps
- 9 Seriously embroiled (in)
- 10 Ireland
- 11 Poker variety
- 17 Berliner's cry
- 19 Antitoxins
- 22 Neptune's realm
- 24 Trail the pack
- 25 Have bills
- 26 Greeted
- 27 Due
- 29 Avril follower
- 30 Bit of wit
- 33 Saab model
- 36 Views, briefly
- 38 Untie
- 40 NASCAR advertiser
- 42 Imperfection
- 43 Chorus syllables
- 44 Couch
- 46 Father (Fr.)
- 47 Way out
- 48 Deli loaves
- 50 Caesar or Vicious

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	I	B	R	A	C	A	R	V	E	R
A	E	N	E	I	D	A	W	H	I	L
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A	S	O	F	I	D	E	E	S	P	
				Y	E	T	I	D	E	R
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N	I	C	E	T	O	M	E	E	T	Y
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				M	R	S		N	I	N
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S	C	E	N	T	S				E	R

2-26

CRYPTOQUIP

JEURNV WMPWCM I DRUEL DXR

DEV HLRDL JRC MWTVCNWM I

DEMHTLO ECRNLP ZXW ZRDL:

OCELPUE URVWIV.

Saturday's Cryptquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU CALL PEOPLE WHO CONSTRUCT SAFETY NETS FOR CIRCUSES? PRECAUTIONARY MESHERS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: D equals W

BOLSHOI VALET


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- Free ads are available only DOO ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy right unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with 1B Diego Goris and LHP Matt Towles on minor league deals.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Miguel Andrade and Trevor Oakes; LHP Eric Skoglund; C Cam Gallagher; INF's Chesler Cuthbert, Adalberto Mondesi and Ramon Torres; and OF Jorge Bonifacio. Billy Burns, Pablo Orlando and Pablo Sandoz starting on one-year contracts and OF Michael Saunders on a minor league contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Agreed to terms with SS Erick Aybar on a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with RHP Clayton Blackburn, Matt Busch, Jonathan Hernandez, Ronald Herrera, A.J. Smith and LHP Ricky Rodriguez and Connor Sadeck; LHP Brett Martin and Yohander Mendez; C Brett Nicholson; INF's Jairo Lopez, Ronald Guzman, Ishan Kier-Falecia, and Drew Ballentine and OFs Willie Calahorra, Delno DeShields, Nomar Mazara and Carlos Teo on one-year contracts.

National League
CINCINNATI REDS — Agreed to terms with LHP Oliver Perez on a minor league contract.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with RHP Junior Franco on a minor league contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Agreed to terms with LHP Ryan Siegrist on a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
ATLANTA HAWKS — Transferred G Eric Gordon to F and W. White III to E (NBAU).

LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Assigned C Thomas Bryant to South Bay (NBAU).

National Hockey League
ANAHIM DUKES — Recalled C Kalle Kero to AHL.
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled F Logan Daughn from Tucson (AHL).

FLORIDA Panthers — Assigned F Ryan Lomborg to Stockton (AHL). Placed G Ryan Johnson on injured reserve. Assigned Fs Tanner Glass and Andrew Mangiapane to AHL.

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Taylor Garity from Greenville (ECHL) to AHL.

EDMONTON OILERS — Traded B Brandon Tanev to Chicago Blackhawks for a 2019 third-round draft pick.

LOS ANGELES Kings — Assigned F Jonny Brodzinski and G Scott Wedgewood to Ontario (AHL). Recalled D Patrick Brown to Ontario.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned F Blake Pietrangeli to Binghamton (AHL).

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Reassigned F Samuel Reinhart to Chicago Blackhawks (AHL). Recalled D Jordan Schmied and F Tage Thompson from San Antonio (AHL).

Major League Soccer
COLUMBIA RAPIDS — Signed D Sam Vines to a three-year contract.

PURDUE — Named Mark Tommerdahl special teams and tight ends coach.

College hockey

Saturday's scores

EAST
Colgate 5, RPI 1
Army 4, Sacred Heart 3
American International 3, Bentley 2
Clarkson 3, Niagara 2
Vermont 1, Boston U. 1, OT
Clarkson 3, Quinnipiac 2
Northeastern 4, New Hampshire 0
Clarkson 3, Niagara 2
Penn St. 5, Minnesota 2
Clarkson 3, Robert Morris 2, O.
Mercyhurst 4, RIT 3
Princeton 4, St. Lawrence 3
Mass. 1, Providence 1
UMass-Lowell 5, Merrimack 0
Clarkson 4, Cornell 1
UConn 2, Harvard 1
SOUTH
Bowling Green 1 — Huntsville 0
MIDWEST
Adrian 9, Lake Forest 1
Ferris St. 4, Lake Superior 2
North Dakota 2, Miami (Ohio) 2, OT
Minnesota 3, Arizona 1
Michigan Tech 3, N. Michigan 2
Clarkson 2, Minnesota 3, O.
Michigan St. 4, Notre Dame 3
Ohio St. 4, Wisconsin 0
Colorado College 2, Omaha 2, OT
St. Cloud St. 4, Denver 2
Minn.-Duluth 6, W. Michigan 1

College basketball

Saturday's men's scores

EAST
Albany (NY) 89, Maine 79
CSCU 51, Florida Brooklyn 75, OT
Louisville 105, Ohio 50
Cleveland 68, James Madison 66
Davidson 59, Holy Cross 53
Cleveland 68, James Madison 66
Fairfield 69, Monmouth (NJ) 66
Fairleigh Dickinson 87, Bryant 83
Hartford 67, Binghamton 57
Hofstra 91, Towson 86
Lehigh 79, Brooklyn 88, Sacred Heart 77
La Salle 73, Fordham 60
Lehigh 79, Lafayette 64
Mount St. Mary's 73, Wagner 62
Loyola (Md.) 65, UMass 76
Norfolk St. 74, Md.-Eastern Shore 63
Princeton 64, Harvard 71
Providence 74, Dartmouth 47
Providence 74, Georgetown 69
Seton Hall 81, St. John's 74, OT
St. Francis (Pa.) 80, Robert Morris 50
UMBC 83, Mass.-Lowell 70
UMass-Wilmington 83, Drexel 82
Vermont 69, Stony Brook 60
Vermont 69, Stony Brook 60
West Virginia 85, Iowa 67
Yale 83, Columbia 72
SOUTH
Alabama 88, Southern U. 85
Arkansas 75, Grambling St. 66
Arkansas 75, Alabama 88
Belmont 44, Tennessee 59
Bethune-Cookman 121, Savannah St. 92
Campbell 72, Presbyterian 56
Charlotte 78, Winthrop 75
Clemson 75, North Carolina 77
Duke 60, Syracuse 44
Florida 66, Texas A&M 54
Fu 67, Rice 64
Georgia Tech 72, Auburn 66
Florida A&M 83, NC A&T 77
Florida Tech 72, UConn 61
Florida 76, UMass 76
Georgia 83, LSU 82
Houston 77, Morgan St. 38
Howard 93, Delaware St. 74
Jackson St. 65, MSU 66
Jacksonville 61, Tennessee Tech 57
Kentucky 87, Missouri 69
Louisiana 65, High Point 45
Louisiana-Lafayette 88, South Alabama 71
Louisville 75, Virginia Tech 68
Marshall 103, Charlotte 75
Marshall 103, Charlotte 75
Miami 75, Boston College 78
Middle Tennessee 61, Maryland 61
Middle Tennessee 73, UAB 54
Mississippi St. 72, South Carolina 68, OT
Morehead St. 70, E. Kentucky 66
New York 73, Austin Peay 70
Nicholls 78, New Orleans 48
Northwestern 81, Elon 59
Notre Dame 76, Wake Forest 71
Oklahoma 74, NJIT 66
SC State 102, NC Central 79
SE Louisiana 86, Northwestern St. 62
Saint Joseph's 72, Richmond 70
St. Bonaventure 68, VCU 63
Tennessee 73, Mississippi 66
Texas A&M 89, Vanderbilt 81
Texas Tech 79, Florida 88
W. Kentucky 58, Old Dominion 66
William & Mary 114, Col. of Charleston 104, OT
MIDWEST
Cleveland St. 99, Youngstown St. 94, OT
Creighton 89, Villanova 83, OT
DePaul 70, Marquette 62
Detroit Mercy 89, W. Michigan 61
E. Illinois 68, St. Edward's 56
Florida Grand 62, Indiana 62
Evansville 75, St. Louis 44
Indiana 62, Detroit 63
Indiana 65, Bradley 64
Kent St. 64, Bowling Green 66
North Dakota 62, Indiana St. 61
Miami (Ohio) 64, Akron 62, OT
N. Colorado 79, Chicago 66
N. Dakota St. 64, Nebraska-Omaha 62
Cowa 71, Missouri 51
Oakland 72, Milwaukee 70
Rio Grande 83, Chicago 75
St. Dakota St. 97, Fort Wayne 60
Saint Louis 62, George Washington 53
St. Martin 72, SE Missouri 66
Valparaiso 69, Drake 64
SOUTHWEST
Appalachian St. 69, UALR 67
Kent. Arkansas 74, Abilene Christian 78
COASTAL
Coastal Carolina 88, Arkansas St. 81
Texas Southern 60, Alabama 59
Texas State 69, Texas A&M-CC 62
Texas A&M-CC 62, Georgia Southern 69
Lamar 71, Stephen F. Austin 66
Oklahoma 86, Kansas 74
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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

Ramstein boys earn fourth straight title

Royals come from behind to get past Raiders in D-I

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Ramstein Royals maintained their status at the top of the power curve in the Kaiserslautern Military Community with a thrilling, come-from-behind 46-45 win Saturday over cross-town rival Kaiserslautern.

It's the school's fourth consecutive DODEA Europe Division I boys' championship.

"We don't really think about championships. We just love playing basketball together and competing," Ramstein coach Andrew O'Connor said. "That's all we ever stress is compete, compete, compete, and we were fortunate to come out with a victory against an amazing Kaiserslautern team."

Joshua Gedeon was the hero for the Royals, nailing a go-ahead three-pointer with fifteen seconds left. With Kaiserslautern forced to foul after a turnover on the following possession, Ramstein was able to limit the Raiders to a last-second desperation three-pointer from Tre Dotson, who was smothered by defenders.

"It's so surreal, it's crazy — I was off all game, and I just hit the biggest shot of my high school career," Gedeon said. "I just happened to get the ball, and converted."

After one half, it seemed the Royals were en route to a comfortable win, hanging on to a 10-point lead at the interval and looking every inch the better team. The recipe they had succeeded with all tournament was bearing ruin — they were getting it done with a variety of weapons — the outside shooting of Isaiah Washington and Santo Starkey, the craft and guile of Ervin Johnson and the all-around games of Tre Dotson and Marlon Robins.

Of course, as with many games between these two rivals, it wouldn't be so simple.

The Royals, led by the shooting of Naser Eaves, who won tournament Most Valuable Player honors, and Gabe Fraley, stormed



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Jovaine Ebanks, left, and Ramstein's Sincere Dudley jump for a rebound during the DODEA Europe boys Division I championship in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Saturday. The Royals won 46-45.

back in the third quarter, outscoring Kaiserslautern 21-10. A frantic fourth quarter saw many lead changes and highs and lows for fans and players of both teams alike.

"I think our nerves got us a lot in the first half," O'Connor said. "At the break I just told them that defense got you here, and asked them to turn things up a notch there, and we started knocking down shots."

Kaiserslautern coach Corey Sullivan said that he couldn't predict if his team will be able to break Ramstein's run next season.

"I'm gonna go home, sleep and teach on Monday," he said. "It's DODEA, you don't know anything about next year until November 1st, so we'll worry about it next year. Congratulations to Ramstein, they earned it, it was a great job by them."

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Rota's Andy Drake shoots over Black Forest Academy's Kaden Proctor, left, and Trevor Braaten during the DODEA Europe Division II championship on Saturday.

BFA edges Rota again

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Black Forest Academy defended its DODEA Europe Division II basketball title Saturday when Rota star center Andy Drake's shot rolled off of the rim at the buzzer, giving the Falcons a 48-47 victory.

"I was so scared, it looked like it was about to go in, so I can honestly say it was a relief (when it didn't)," BFA's Dillon Priest, who took home tournament Most Valuable Player honors. "Sorry for Rota, but good for us."

The Falcons have now won two titles in a row over the Admirals, who BFA coach Chris Greathouse praised.

"They're a good ball club, they work hard, (Rota coach) Ben (Anderson) has done a great job, he's got players that just give everything," Greathouse said. "It's always good to play against them."

In the first half Saturday, the teams traded blows, with BFA storming out to a 16-7 first quarter edge before Rota came back with a 16-point quarter of their own, making it a mere three-point BFA edge at the break, 26-23.

The Falcons were able to ride their defense early on, stymying the Admirals with a full court press, featuring center Kaden Proctor in a sort of centerfielder role, and a zone defense so well-executed all five players seemed to move as one.

"It's really nice to put in the work we can with the limited time we have and see it

executed on the floor so well," Priest said.

However, Rota was able to adjust, figuring out ways to break the press and getting the ball inside to top scorer Drake, who, once in his favored position in the paint, is a constant threat with his vision, passing ability and footwork.

There were several lead changes in the closing minutes as both teams looked to put some daylight between themselves and their opponents, but neither team seemed willing to concede an inch.

"I thought we played really resiliently tonight, we didn't give up," Rota coach Anderson said. "They would go on runs, but we would just keep bouncing back."

The Admirals also displayed impressive depth with substitute Cameron Wilson coming off the bench with starter L.J. Chester in foul trouble.

"He did a fantastic job, especially on defense," Anderson said of Wilson. "He changed the momentum of the game by really pressuring Dillon Priest."

That, and the play of teammates Drake, Joseph Perches and Antonio White wasn't enough to overcome Priest and the Falcons, who received a strong performance inside from their own big man, Proctor.

BFA will have bragging rights over their Spain-based rivals for at least another year, but given these teams' recent history, next year's tournament will likely feature both prominently.

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Baumholder needs OT to earn D-III crown over Brussels

By DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes



Baumholder's Kwamee Gindraw shoots over the Brussels defense during the DODEA Europe Division III championship on Saturday.

WIESBADEN, Germany — The DODEA Europe boys' basketball championship got off to a dramatic start Saturday as the Baumholder Bucs outlasted the Brussels Brigands with a 35-28 overtime win.

The Bucs have been threatening to win a Division III title for the past couple years, with a third-place finish last year following a runner-up finish to Sigonella in 2016.

They finally made the breakthrough behind a talented and veteran-laden squad to the delight of a very pro-Baumholder crowd Saturday.

Undeclared in the regular season, Baumholder suffered a hiccup in the tournament against

Ansbach, but recovered to finish 4-1 in round-robin play.

"Off the court we're all like best friends — this team is better than any team when we made the championship, and all the other teams I played on," said senior guard Nate Horton, who finished with 11 points in the final and was named the tournament's most valuable player. "Winning feels real good, especially with this team."

Baumholder stormed out to an early 11-2 lead, and if it weren't for the shooting of Dominick DeFazio, Brussels would have been out of the running by the end of the first quarter. As it was, the Brigands hung tough and were able to claw their way back into the game courtesy of a strong second-half defensive performance and good offensive work from

DeFazio and Shahzod Niyazov, who finished with a combined 23 of the Brigands' total points.

Baumholder was only able to muster six points total in the second half, something that spurred coach Dewayne Piggé to run a four-corners delay tactic to minimize damage and hope for overtime.

"It was important that we ran that and took us into overtime," Piggé said. Before the overtime period, "I told them to dig deep, this is it."

It worked — the Bucs were dominant in overtime, scoring nine points to Brussels' two when it mattered most. Horton put them ahead by five on a layup in heavy traffic.

"I was just thinking that if I made this the game would be

over," he said of the shot.

DeFazio said the first possessions of the four-minute overtime period were critical.

"I think we could have started overtime off a little bit stronger, it wasn't nice being down four points really quickly there," he said.

Brussels may find it difficult to replace much of their senior-heavy squad next season, and it will take time to forge the same unity this team played with.

"We're really like one cohesive unit," DeFazio said. "I think there are other teams that have better talent than us, but we just work together as a unit and that's what brought us to the championship game."

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

Sigonella repeats as D3 champs

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Sigonella won its second consecutive DODEA Europe Division III girls basketball championship Saturday at Clay Kaserne Fitness Center, beating Ansbach 27-18 and retaining their title at the end of a six-game, four-day odyssey through the small-school bracket.

The teams met in the final two years ago, a two-overtime battle that Ansbach won 34-30. That extended a string of overtime title-game heartbreaks for the Jaguars, who now have an ongoing streak of a more positive nature. Sigonella beat Baumholder 14-11 in last year's divisional championship game.

The Jaguars weren't shy about embracing their status as the division's firmly established standard-bearer.

The road to a championship leads through Sigonella, the coach Larry Chandler said. "If you can't get through Sigonella, you can't be a D-III champion."

Senior Kristiana Wyrick, Sigonella's only senior, has experienced both disappointment and triumph in her four-year career with the Jaguars. But the ending was jubilation as she was subbed out in the final minutes of Saturday's rout to a rousing ovation from the considerable Jaguar fan base in town for the tournament.

Wyrick said she was determined to prevent another potential title-game letdown like those she'd lived through in the past.

"Come on, let's just make this one easy," Wyrick said. "We were trying to beat them by 20 points."

While the Jaguars didn't reach that margin of victory, the very pursuit of it led the Jaguars to quickly build and capably sustain a comfortable lead.



Sigonella's Averil Chandler takes a jump shot during the Division III championship game on Saturday. Chandler had a game-high 12 points for the Jaguars.

A deliberately paced Ansbach offense produced a few open looks but couldn't convert them to any points in the first quarter. Spry Sigonella seized the opportunity with eight unanswered points over the first eight minutes, and built its lead to 13-0 before Kate-lynn Patterson deposited Ansbach's first basket nearly three minutes into the second quarter.

"I just think we really gave it our all," Wyrick said. "We hustled, we were aggressive."

Freshman Averil Chandler scored a game-high 12 points for the Jaguars, including six in the first quarter. Alikah Munson led Ansbach with nine points off of three-pointers in each of the second, third and fourth quarters.

The outcome brought a decisive end to an evenly-matched tournament that placed the division's six teams in round-robin competition over three days, with the top two advancing straight to Saturday's final. No team survived that unscathed, including the finalists: Sigonella took a 27-25 loss to Hofenfels on Thursday, while Ansbach opened its postseason the same way it ended it — with a loss to the Jaguars.

Stuttgart holds off Naples

Panthers surge after halftime to D-I title

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Stuttgart successfully defended its DODEA Europe Division I girls basketball championship Saturday, using an overwhelming run out of halftime to knock off top-seeded Naples 31-25.

Stuttgart fell behind immediately to start the game, but gradually clawed back and eventually got ahead.

The Panthers seemed to have momentum when freshman Skye DaSilva Mathis scored on a putback for a 14-8 lead midway through the second quarter. But Stuttgart failed to build on its lead and settled for a 14-10 advantage at the break.

Neither the early deficit nor the second-quarter lull had an impact on their confidence, Panthers freshman guard Claire Troiano said.

"We all had our spirits up," Troiano said. "We were all hyping each other up, making sure that we stayed positive."

In fact, the Panthers talked amongst themselves at halftime independent of head coach Robin Hess and hatched a plan to put the game out of reach. Senior point ally Taylor described the impromptu meeting as a "conversation about what we needed to do."

Then Stuttgart went out and did it.

The Panthers held Naples to a single basket in the third quarter and poured in 10 points of their own for a substantial 24-12 lead entering the final eight minutes. That proved the decisive blow, as the Wildcats cut the deficit no lower than eight until an inconsequential last-second hoop.

"Pure determination," Hess said. "These girls wanted it."

Naples coach Tim Smith pointed to his team's failure to hold its



PHOTOS MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Stuttgart's Allison Taylor takes a jump shot over Naples' Jada Williamson during the Division I championship on Saturday.

early lead and struggles against Stuttgart's core of interior players as reasons for his team's loss. But more than anything, the Wildcats suffered one key shortcoming Saturday.

"We just couldn't shoot," Smith said.

Naples entered the tournament as an undefeated No. 1 seed. While some previous regional powerhouses had faltered against the consolidated competition found at the tournament, the Wildcats came into Wiesbaden with the look of a legitimate contender, thanks in part to December wins over Stuttgart and Vilsack, both eventual elimination-round participants, in neutral-court December meetings at Vicenza.

Smith considers the tournament a success regardless of Saturday's outcome.

"Our kids have really done a great job," Smith said. "We wanted to win this, of course, but we had a great season."

Stuttgart cruised through the 2016-17 regular season and post-

season without a loss, culminating with a 36-8 trouncing of rival Ramstein. Success did not come so readily this winter, as regular-season losses to Naples and Ramstein dropped the Panthers to the second tournament seed and the more difficult pool. But Stuttgart rounded into championship form in Wiesbaden, rollicking through the preliminary round and gritting out a 25-21 semifinal defeat of Vilsack.

For Stuttgart, that 39-35 loss to Naples on Dec. 9 proved a defining moment in its season.

"It was a huge motivator for our entire team," Taylor said. "We really cracked down and started working really, really hard. I think that allowed us to progress."

Taylor led all scorers Saturday with 12 points, while Troiano added seven. Freshman point guard Roxanne Sasse paced the Wildcats with eight points.

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BFA dominant in defending D-II crown

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Black Forest Academy Falcons completed one of the most dominant postseason runs in DODEA Europe girls basketball history Saturday, routing Spangdahlem 36-10 for their third straight Division II championship.

The title game presented a challenge for the underdog Sentinels but also the competition-starved Falcons. Coach Cindy Kennedy said she strove to keep her players focused in the face of a victory that was all but assured.

"We're going to come into this game with humility, and we're going to respect the team, and we're going to just try to play our ball," Kennedy said.

The Falcons' projected dominance kicked in eventually. BFA didn't manage a field goal until the final minute of the first quarter. But a jumper by Becca Losey, followed quickly by a three-pointer from

Katie Greathouse, broke the seal on the BFA hoop and gave the defending champs a 7-0 lead by quarter's end. The Falcons then settled into an offensive rhythm and kept the beat for the duration.

Spangdahlem went scoreless in the first half, but finally broke its 16-minute dry spell on an Amadi Bradshaw free throw in the opening minute of the third quarter that mercifully dismissed the looming spectre of a championship-game shutout. Bradshaw, the team's only senior, also delivered her team's first field goal, a hard-earned putback layup with under four minutes to play in the third quarter.

The Spangdahlem program, known until this season as the Bitburg Barons and still adorned in jerseys labeled "Lady Barons," made its fourth consecutive championship game appearance on Saturday. But this year's squad lacked the overall talent or experience of the accomplished Barons that beat BFA for the 2015 title and pushed the Falcons in 2016 and 2017 title games.

Rather, the seventh-seeded Sentinels, by their own admission, were quite literally happy just to be there Saturday, and even surprised by their own achievement in advancing so far after a 3-8 regular season. On Friday, following Spangdahlem's 23-18 semifinal defeat of Marymount, coach Chris Howard coined the term "rebuild to remarkable" to describe the young Sentinels' growth at the tournament.

That growth spurt sputtered out Saturday against a Falcons team optimized for tournament success.

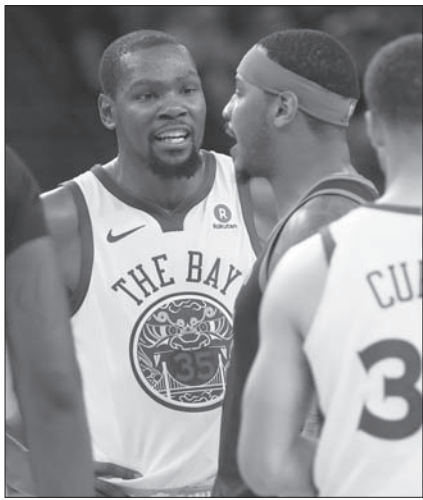
The Falcons were a heavy favorite entering the tournament. They chewed through three preliminary opponents, feisty but overmatched semifinalist Bahrain and finally a lesser version of its old rival. In sum, the Falcons won their five tournament games by a combined 163 points.

Kennedy Wilbanks headlined the BFA offense Saturday with 10 points, while Losey added seven. Grace Wettstone and Greathouse added six points apiece.



Black Forest Academy's Jessica Campbell gets a rebound in front of Spangdahlem's Justine Tila during the Division II championship game in Wiesbaden, Germany, on Saturday.

NBA



The Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant, left, argues with Oklahoma City Thunder forward Carmelo Anthony during the first half of Saturday's game, in Oakland, Calif.

Roundup

Durant, Warriors blow out Thunder

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Kevin Durant scored 28 points for Golden State while averaging an embarrassing home loss to his former Oklahoma City team earlier this month and another on the road in November, leading the Warriors past the Thunder 112-80 on Saturday night.

Stephen Curry added 21 points, nine rebounds, six assists and three steals as Golden State put on the kind of defensive performance coach Steve Kerr has been seeking from the defending champs.

Russell Westbrook had 15 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists for Oklahoma City, which failed to reach 100 points for the first time in the last five games. The Thunder had scored at least 100 in 14 of their last 16.

Timberwolves 122, Bulls 104: Jeff Teague scored 25 points, Andrew Wiggins added 23 and host Minnesota won its first game since All-Star Jimmy Butler was injured.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 22 points and 13 rebounds for his 53rd double-double of the season. Jamal Crawford scored 19 for the Timberwolves, including three three-pointers that keyed a 16-2 stop to open the fourth quarter.

Zach LaVine scored 21 to lead the Bulls in his return to Target Center after the blockbuster off-season trade that sent Butler to

Minnesota.

Butler had to be helped off the floor Friday night in a loss at Houston. He has a meniscus injury to his right knee, and it's unclear how long he will be sidelined.

Jazz 97, Mavericks 90: At Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell had 25 points, five rebounds and five assists as Utah earned its 12th win in 13 games.

Trail Blazers 106, Suns 104: Damian Lillard scored 40 points, including a left-handed layup with 9 seconds remaining, and visiting Portland rallied from 15 down in the final 7½ minutes to hand Phoenix its ninth straight loss.

Celtics 121, Knicks 112: Kyrie Irving had 31 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, leading host Boston to its second straight win in two nights since the All-Star break.

76ers 116, Magic 105: Joel Embiid had 28 points and 14 rebounds, and host Philadelphia extended its season-high win streak to seven.

Heat 115, Grizzlies 89: Tyler Johnson scored 23 points to lead six players in double figures, and host Miami stopped a three-game slide.

Lakers 113, Kings 108: Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 17 of his season-high 34 points in the third quarter, and Los Angeles snapped a three-game road losing streak.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	11	17	39.1	—
Toronto	29	19	60.9	1½
Philadelphia	25	25	50.0	5
New York	24	37	39.3	18½
Brooklyn	19	37	33.7	23

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	33	25	57.6	—
Miami	21	29	41.7	3½
Charlotte	26	33	44.1	7
Orlando	18	41	30.6	16
Atlanta	18	42	30.0	16½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	15	23	60.3	—
Indiana	34	25	57.6	1½
Memphis	25	25	50.0	2
Detroit	28	30	48.3	7
Chicago	20	39	33.9	15½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	45	13	77.6	—
San Antonio	29	25	53.8	11
New Orleans	32	26	55.2	13
Memphis	18	40	31.0	27
Dallas	18	42	30.0	28

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	27	26	58.7	—
Portland	34	26	56.7	1½
Denver	23	29	44.1	7
Oklahoma City	34	27	55.7	11
Utah	29	27	51.7	14½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	46	14	76.7	—
L.A. Clippers	31	29	51.7	15
L.A. Lakers	25	34	42.4	20½
Phoenix	18	43	29.5	28½

Friday's games

Boston 110, Detroit 96
Charlotte 122, Washington 105
Indiana 116, Atlanta 93
Milwaukee 122, Toronto 119, OT
Orlando 124, Memphis 109
Houston 120, Minnesota 102
New Orleans 124, Miami 123, OT
Denver 122, Phoenix 117
Portland 100, Utah 81
L.A. Lakers 124, Dallas 102

Saturday's games

Philadelphia 116, Orlando 105
Boston 121, New York 112
Miami 115, Memphis 89
Golden State 112, Oklahoma City 80
Minnesota 122, Chicago 104
Portland 106, Phoenix 104
Utah 97, Dallas 90
L.A. Lakers 113, Sacramento 108

Sunday's games

Detroit at Charlotte
New Orleans at Milwaukee
San Antonio at Cleveland
Houston at Denver
Philadelphia at Washington
Chicago at Brooklyn
Detroit at Atlanta
Golden State at New York
L.A. Lakers at Atlanta
Memphis at Boston
Orlando at Oklahoma City
Phoenix at Utah
Indiana at Dallas
Houston at New Orleans
Minnesota at Sacramento

Tuesday's games

Brooklyn at Cleveland
Chicago at Charlotte
Philadelphia at Miami
Washington at Milwaukee
Sacramento at Portland
L.A. Clippers at Denver

Saturday Warriors 112, Thunder 80

OAKLAND CITY — George 11-4 2-3 5, Anthony 6-17 1-12 4, Adams 6-9 2-14, Durant 25-25 6-15, Huerfano 2-3 0-0 5, Singsler 0-0 0-0, Grant 2-5 2-5 6, collison 1-1 0-0 0-0, Felton 0-0 0-0, Felton 4-8 0-0 11, Ferguson 2-4 0-0 5, Abrines 1-5 0-0 3, Total 112-80.

GOLDEN STATE — Durant 10-4 4-28, Green 5-8 0-10, McGee 1-0 0-2, Curry 19-0 0-21, Thompson 5-16 0-21, Casspi 0-2 0-0 0, Looney 0-0 0-0, West 0-2 2-2 2, Bledsoe 1-2 0-0 0, Johnson 1-2 2-3 5, Cook 2-3 0-0 6, Young 5-10 2-2 16, Igouada 3-4 0-0 7, Totals 42-99 11-31 12.

Sunday Mavericks 90, Jazz 97

DALLAS — Matthews 3-8 2-10, Barnes 4-11 1-19, Nowitzki 3-8 2-14, Smith 2-11 3-4 7, Barrell 3-8 1-7 0-17, McDermott 4-6 1-12, Powell 3-5 4-10, Meiri 0-0 0-0 0, Ferrell 5-11 0-9 13, Collinsworth 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 34-83 12-49 0.

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Sunday Mavericks 90, Jazz 90

DALLAS — Matthews 3-8 2-10, Barnes 4-11 1-19, Nowitzki 3-8 2-14, Smith 2-11 3-4 7, Barrell 3-8 1-7 0-17, McDermott 4-6 1-12, Powell 3-5 4-10, Meiri 0-0 0-0 0, Ferrell 5-11 0-9 13, Collinsworth 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 34-83 12-49 0.

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Oklahoma City

OKLAHOMA CITY — Goals—Oklahoma City 9-34 (Felton 3-4, Ferguson 1-2, Huerfano 1-3, Abrines 1-4, Westbrook 1-4, Thompson 1-7, Grant 0-1), Golden State 17-38 (Curry 5-12, Young 4-5, Durant 4-6, Cook 2-2, Igouada 1-1, Thompson 1-11, Casspi 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Oklahoma City 41, Golden State 12. Golden State 4 (Curry 9), Assists—Oklahoma City 16, Golden State 16. Golden State 36 (Green 8), Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 21, Golden State 21. Technicals—Anthony, George, Durant, Green. A—19,596 (13,967).

Celtics 121, Knicks 112

BOSTON — Horford 5-13 0-13, Tatum 3-9 5-11, Theis 2-3 2-6, Irving 11-22 3-4, Brown 10-17 2-23 4, Ojieleye 0-0 0-0, Morris 1-3 3-4, Monroe 2-7 2-26, Smart 0-0 0-0, Total 42-92 24-121.

NEW YORK — Hardaway Jr. 7-16 0-0 17, Beasley 5-14 4-15, Kauter 4-9 1-1 5, Mudiay 4-12 5-8 13, Lee 1-4 0-0 2, Thomas 1-0 0-2, Williams 6-9 2-2 14, O'Quinn 2-2 0-4, Ntilikina 4-9 0-0 8, Burke 10-19 4-16, Dotson 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 45-96 16-120 112.

Boston

BOSTON — Three-Point Goals—Boston 13-33 (Irving 6-12, Horford 3-6, Rozier 2-5, Brown 2-5, Tatum 0-1, Perkins 0-1, Morris 0-3). New York 6-27 (Hardaway Jr. 3-8, Burke 4-8, Beasley 1-1, Ntilikina 0-3, Lee 0-2, Williams 0-3, Mudiay 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Boston 45 (Horford 10), New York 49 (Kauter 12). Assists—Boston 21 (Irving 8), New York 20 (Burke 8). Total Fouls—Boston 15, New York 21. Technicals—None. Coach Knicks (Defensive three second). A—19,812 (19,812).

Trail Blazers 106, Suns 104

PORTLAND — Harkless 3-5 2-9, Aminu 2-9 1-19, Nurkic 7-16 0-2 14, Lillard 13-27 11-15 40, McCollins 8-24 4-21, Davis 1-0 0-2, Collins 2-3 3-6, Napier 0-10 0-0 0, Turner 1-1 3-4 5, Connaughton 2-3 0-4 2, Totals 39-99 22-30 106.

PHOENIX — Warren 8-17 3-15, Bender 2-4 0-5, Len 7-12 1-11, Payton 4-10 5-8 13, Booker 11-28 3-3 30, Dudley 1-1 0-0 3, Jackson 2-5 1-1 5, Chris 2-6 0-5, Daniels 4-7 0-11, Harrison 0-2 2-2 2, Totals 39-97 15-21 104.

Portland

PORTLAND — Three-Point Goals—Portland 30-106 (Lillard 3-11, Harkless 1-1, McCollins 1-5, Turner 1-5, Connaughton 2-3 0-4 2, Phoenix 11-28 (Booker 5-10, Daniels 3-6, Dudley 1-1, Bender 1-3, Chris 1-3, Payton 0-1), Jackson 0-1, Harrison 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 48 (Nurkic 13), Phoenix 51 (Len 13). Assists—Portland 15 (Lillard 5), Phoenix 23 (Payton 11). Total Fouls—Portland 18, Phoenix 24. Technicals—Jackson. A—17,112 (18,055).

Jazz 97, Mavericks 90

DALLAS — Matthews 3-8 2-10, Barnes 4-11 1-19, Nowitzki 3-8 2-14, Smith 2-11 3-4 7, Barrell 3-8 1-7 0-17, McDermott 4-6 1-12, Powell 3-5 4-10, Meiri 0-0 0-0 0, Ferrell 5-11 0-9 13, Collinsworth 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 34-83 12-49 0.

Utah

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Utah

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Utah

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Utah

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Utah

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

UTAH — Ingles 6-11 2-12, Favors 6-11 2-14, Gobert 5-6 3-13, Rubio 2-9 2-27, Mitchell 6-20 5-25, Crowder 1-0 0-11, O'Grady 8-2 2-7, Jett 4-0 2-22, Butler 3-8 0-6 6, Totals 34-85 20-36 97.

Lakers 113, Kings 108

L.A. LAKERS — Ingram 5-12 2-2 13, Randle 6-12 0-12, Lopez 5-12 0-11, Hart 1-10 2-0, Caldwell 1-0 0-0, Thompson 1-0 0-0, Brewer 1-0 0-0, Kuzma 3-9 2-2 10, Zubac 4-4 0-0 0-0, Total 113-108.

SACRAMENTO — Jackson 0-2 0-0 0, Cauley-Stein 6-4 6-11 18, Randolph 3-6 0-7, Fox 3-13 2-13, Bogdanovic 8-16 1-1, Labissiere 3-8 2-0 0-0, Thompson 1-0 0-0, Mason 3-6 0-0 0, Temple 1-4 0-0 3, Carter 2-5 0-0 0, Held 8-17 0-21, Totals 42-94 11-17 108.

Lakers

L.A. Lakers — Three-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 17-38 (Caldwell-Pope 14, Thomas 3-7, Hart 2-4, Kuzma 2-5, Ingram 1-2, Thompson 1-2, Sacramento 13-25 (Hield 5-10), Bogdanovic 4-7, Temple 1-1, Randolph 0-1, Carter 0-1, Fox 1-3, Jackson 0-1, Labissiere 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 44 (Randall 13), Sacramento 48 (Cauley-Stein 15). Assists—L.A. Lakers 26 (Ingram 8), Sacramento 28 (Mason, Fox). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 18, Sacramento 21. A—17,583 (17,608).

Timberwolves 122, Bulls 104

CHICAGO — Nwaba 6-9 2-4 14, Markkanen 9-16 1-12, Durnell 1-2, Durnell 4-12 1-10, LaVine 7-17 7-21, Valentine 5-9 0-11, Voshell 0-0 0-0, Portis 1-2 1-2 5, Grant 1-0 0-0, Payton 1-0 0-0, Totals 104-120 10-4.

Minnesota

MINNESOTA — Bjelica 3-9 1-28, Gibson 7-11 5-17, Towns 9-20 4-6 22, Teague 8-17 6-15, Wiggins 10-19 4-11, Jokić 1-0 0-0, Hunt 1-1 0-2, Deng 1-4 0-0 2, Aldrich 0-0 0-0, Brooks 0-0 0-0, Jones 1-2 0-0, Crawford 0-1 1-2 0-0, Totals 122-104 29-122.

Chicago

CHICAGO — Three-Point Goals—Chicago 6-23 (Vorhees 2-3, Payne 1-3, Valence 1-2, Durnell 1-3, Dunn 1-4, Nwaba 0-1, Markkanen 0-0 0-0, Brooks 0-0 0-0, Portis 1-2 1-2, Fox 1-8, Teague 3-8, Wiggins 2-6, Bjelica 1-6, Deng 0-1, Jones 0-1, Towns 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Chicago 42 (Nwaba 9), Minnesota 51 (Towns 13). Assists—Chicago 21 (Towns 10), Minnesota 25 (Teague 7). Total Fouls—Chicago 20, Minnesota 15. Technicals—Eugene 1-18, Nwaba 1-18, Teague 1-18, Wiggins 1-18, Jones 1-18, Towns 1-18, Totals 42-104 29-122.

Heat 115, Grizzlies 89

MEMPHIS — Grizzlies 7-12 9-17, Green 5-10 0-10, Davis 6-11 2-2 14, Martin 8-12 2-4 0, Brooks 3-9 2-2 8, Henry 3-4 0-0 0, Smith 3-4 0-0 0, Gasol 0-0 0-0 0, Evans 0-0 0-0 0, Chalmers 2-7 0-2, Simmons 2-8 2-2 6, McLemore 2-4 0-0 6, Totals 35-80 14-17 89.

MIAMI — Richardson 6-13 2-15, Winslow 7-12 1-17, White 10-12 4-17, Dragic 2-7 1-2, Johnson 6-12 9-23, Babbitt 9-10 0-0, Johnson 1-1 1-18, Haslem 0-2 0-0, Micky 0-0 0-0, Adebayo 2-7 2-4 13, Winslow 11-11, Totals 111-89 0-15.

Memphis

MEMPHIS — Three-Point Goals—Memphis 5-11 (McLemore 2, Henry 2, Chalmers 1-1, Harrison 1-1, Martin 1-1, Portis 1-1, Portis 1-3 (Elliott) 5-10, Winslow 2-3, Lechman 2-6, Richardson 1-3, Johnson 1-3, Dragic 1-4, Haslem 0-1, Babbitt 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 40 (Green 11), Miami 50 (Whitehead 8), Assists—Memphis 16 (Harrison 6), Miami 27 (Johnson 7). Total Fouls—Memphis 21, Miami 17. A—19,600 (19,600).

76ers 116, Magic 105

ORLANDO — Jismmons 4-12 0-0 9, Gordon 8-17 0-20, Uwechue 6-12 2-15, Vucetic 1-4 0-0 0, Lucca 1-0 0-0 0, Wofford 1-2 2-4, Birch 0-1 1-1, Bismbo 0-0 0-0 0, Simmons 2-4 0-0 0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Mick 0-0 0-0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Totals 111-89 0-15.

MIAMI — Richardson 6-13 2-15, Winslow 7-12 1-17, White 10-12 4-17, Dragic 2-7 1-2, Johnson 6-12 9-23, Babbitt 9-10 0-0, Johnson 1-1 1-18, Haslem 0-2 0-0, Micky 0-0 0-0, Adebayo 2-7 2-4 13, Winslow 11-11, Totals 111-89 0-15.

Orlando

ORLANDO — Jismmons 4-12 0-0 9, Gordon 8-17 0-20, Uwechue 6-12 2-15, Vucetic 1-4 0-0 0, Lucca 1-0 0-0 0, Wofford 1-2 2-4, Birch 0-1 1-1, Bismbo 0-0 0-0 0, Simmons 2-4 0-0 0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Mick 0-0 0-0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Totals 111-89 0-15.

Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Three-Point Goals—Orlando 13-31 (Gordon 4-8, Affala 2-2, Augustus 2-2, Mack 1-1, Hezonja 1-2, Jismmons 1-3, Vucetic 1-4, Fournier 1-3, Lucca 1-0 0-0 0, Wofford 1-2 2-4, Birch 0-1 1-1, Bismbo 0-0 0-0 0, Simmons 2-4 0-0 0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Mick 0-0 0-0, Adebayo 2-4 0-0 0, Totals 111-89 0-15.

Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA — Three-Point Goals—Orlando 13-31 (Gordon 4-8, Affala 2-

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference									
Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Tampa Bay	42	22	17	3	87	223	171		
Toronto	64	39	20	5	83	213	178		
Florida	59	37	14	8	82	194	146		
Florida	59	28	25	6	62	175	193		
Detroit	61	25	26	10	60	162	181		
Montreal	62	24	27	9	55	157	193		
Ottawa	61	21	30	12	52	166	216		
Buffalo	62	18	33	11	47	147	205		
Metropolitan Division									
Washington	62	33	23	9	77	194	184		
Philadelphia	62	33	19	10	76	188	178		
Pittsburgh	63	26	23	4	76	206	187		
New Jersey	62	24	22	8	72	185	189		
Columbus	62	31	26	5	67	163	174		
N.Y. Islanders	63	29	27	6	65	207	225		
Carolina	62	27	25	10	64	164	189		
N.Y. Rangers	62	27	30	5	59	175	198		

Western Conference									
Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Nashville	60	37	14	9	83	192	155		
Winnipeg	62	37	16	8	83	208	164		
St. Louis	61	34	20	7	75	185	172		
Dallas	62	35	23	4	74	184	164		
St. Louis	62	34	24	4	72	173	160		
Colorado	61	32	24	5	69	187	185		
Chicago	62	31	24	5	68	187	179		
Pacific Division									
Vegas	61	41	16	4	86	215	166		
San Jose	62	39	19	9	74	180	171		
Calgary	63	32	22	7	73	182	185		
Edmonton	61	34	21	11	71	177	155		
Los Angeles	62	33	24	5	71	177	155		
Edmonton	61	33	24	5	71	177	155		
Vancouver	61	23	31	7	53	164	200		
Arizona	61	18	33	10	46	147	202		

Final Standings — Tampa Bay won 1-0 over Washington in overtime loss. Top three teams in both divisions earned cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Friday's games
 Minnesota 2, St. Louis 1
 Pittsburgh 6, Carolina 1
 Detroit 2, N.Y. Islanders 1
 Chicago 3, San Jose 1
 Vegas 6, Vancouver 0

Saturday's games
 Philadelphia 5, Ottawa 3
 New York 5, Colorado 1
 Florida 6, Pittsburgh 5
 Pittsburgh 2, Dallas 3

Sunday's games
 Toronto 4, Boston 3
 Columbus 3, Chicago 2
 Washington 5, Buffalo 1
 Tampa Bay 4, Montreal 3, SO
 Edmonton 4, Los Angeles 3

Monday's games
 St. Louis at Nashville
 Boston at Buffalo
 Detroit at N.Y. Rangers
 San Jose at Minnesota
 Chicago at Anaheim
 Vancouver at Arizona

Tuesday's games
 Washington at Columbus
 Toronto at Tampa Bay
 Philadelphia at Montreal
 Vancouver at Colorado
 Vegas at Los Angeles

Wednesday's games
 Ottawa at Washington
 New Jersey at Pittsburgh
 Carolina at Boston
 Dallas at Philadelphia
 Nashville at Winnipeg
 St. Louis at Minnesota
 Calgary at Dallas
 Edmonton at San Jose
 Los Angeles at Vegas

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Sunday

WINTER OLYMPICS

Medals roundup

Bjorgen wins again in final Olympic race

Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Marit Bjergen has left a legacy that will be hard to top.

In her final Olympic race, the most decorated athlete in the history of the Winter Games obliterated the field, winning the 30-kilometer mass start cross-country ski race by 1 minute, 49 seconds over silver medalist Krista Parmakoski of Finland.

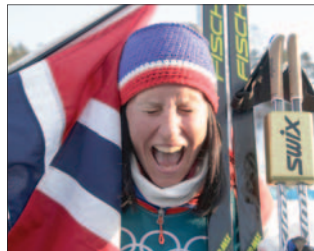
The 37-year-old Norwegian was never challenged Sunday en route to her eighth career gold medal and 15th overall since he began competing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

"When I look behind me and see what I have done, it's incredible," said Bjergen, who broke down in tears at one point after the race. "It has been an amazing career for me, this is my last Olympics and to finish like this is incredible."

Bjergen won five medals at the Pyeongchang Games, more than any other athlete.

She never left a doubt about the outcome of Sunday's race.

Bjergen took the lead about 2 kilometers in and continued to stretch it. With 7 kilometers remaining she was so far ahead of the rest of the field that sec-



DMITRI LOVETSKY/AP

Norway's Marit Bjergen celebrates after winning the gold medal in the women's 30k cross-country skiing competition on Sunday.

ond-place skier Teresa Stadlober couldn't see her, and took a wrong turn on the course, heading right instead of left. By the time the Austrian corrected her course, she had fallen to eighth place and out of medal contention.

Curling: The Swedish women won the gold medal in the final match of a marathon curling festival on Sunday, beating South Korea 8-3 in nine ends to leave the "Garlic Girls" with a silver that is the hosts' first-ever Olympic medal in the sport.

Sweden took control of the match by stealing a point in back-to-back ends — the fourth and the fifth — even though Korea had the last-rook advantage known as the hammer. After Korea mustered just one point in the third, Swedish skip Anna Hasselbom delivered a takeover on her final rook of the seventh to score three points and open a 7-2 lead.

The Koreans picked up one point in the eighth, but when they couldn't keep the Swedes from scoring in the ninth, they conceded.

Scoreboard

Medals table

102 medal events				
Nation	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	14	10	11	35
Germany	14	10	7	31
South Korea	11	8	10	29
United States	9	8	6	23
Netherlands	8	4	17	25
South Korea	5	8	4	17
OA Russia	2	6	1	9
Netherlands	5	4	15	20
France	5	4	15	20
Sweden	6	4	15	20
Austria	5	3	6	14
Japan	4	4	3	11
Italy	3	2	5	10
China	1	6	2	9
Czech Republic	1	1	4	6
Finland	0	1	4	5
North Korea	2	1	0	3
Belarus	2	1	0	3
Belarus	0	2	1	3
Australia	0	2	1	3
Poland	0	0	2	2
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
New Zealand	0	0	2	2
Spain	0	0	2	2
Hungary	1	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	1	1
Belgium	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1
Latvia	0	0	1	1
Liechtenstein	0	0	1	1

Sunday's medalists

BOBSLED
Men's Four-Man
GOLD—Germany (Francois Fredrich, Thorsten Margis, Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp), 3:15.85.
2. South Korea 1 (Kim Donghyun, Yun Jungho, Seo Youngwoo, Jun Junglin), 3:16.38.
3. Germany 3 (Walther Nico, Eric Franke, Kevin Kuske, Alexander Roediger), 3:16.38.
4. Switzerland 2 (Rico Peter, Thomas Walther, Simon Friedli, Michael Kunz), 3:16.62.
5. Latvia 1 (Oskars Melbardis, Daumants Breinis, Janis Strenga, Arvis Vilkaste), 3:16.65.
6. Canada 1 (Justin Kripps, Oluseyi Smith, Jesse Lumsden, Alexander Kopacz), 3:16.69.
7. Austria 1 (Benjamin Maier, Markus Sammer, Danut Ivan Moldovan, Kilian Walch), 3:16.90.
8. Germany 2 (Johannes Lochner, Christian Popp, Christian Rosp, Christopher Weber), 3:17.11.
9. United States 2 (Codie Bascue, Evann Weinstock, Samuel Mc Guffie, Steven Langston), 3:17.28.
10. United States 3 (Nick Cunningham, Christopher Kinney, Samuel Michener, Hakeem Abdul-Saboor), 3:18.54.
20. United States 1 (Justin Olson, Carlo Valdes, Christopher Fogt, Nathan Weber), 3:18.55.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING
Women's 30km Mass Start Classic
GOLD—Marit Bjergen, Norway
SILVER—Krista Parmakoski, Finland
BRONZE—Stina Nilsson, Sweden
CURLING
Women
GOLD—Sweden (Agnes Knochenhauer, Jennie Washlin, Anna Hasselbom, Sofia Mabrey, Sara McManus)
SILVER—South Korea (Kim Chohi, Kim Kyoungeon, Kim Seonyeong, Kim Yeongmi, Eun Jiumyeong)
BRONZE—Japan (Chinami Yoshida, Yuka Suzuki, Satsuki Fujisawa, Yurika Yoshida, Mari Motoki)
ICE HOCKEY
Men
GOLD—OA Russia (Artyom Zub, Vladislav Gavrilov, Ivan Telegen, Sergei Mokhov, Sergei Andronov, Pavel Datyuk, Sergei Kalinin, Mikhail Grigore-

nko, Vyacheslav Volynov, Andrei Zubarev, Ilya Kibakulov, Igor Shestovnikov, Ilya Sorokin, Yegor Yakovlev, Sergei Shirokov, Alexei Marchenko, Bogdan Kiselevich, Ilya Kovalchuk, Nikolai Prokhorkin, Kirill Kaprizov, Vassili Koshchekin, Vadim Shipachov, Nikita Nesterov, Alexander Barkov, Nikita Gusev)
SILVER—Germany (Daryl Boyle, Christian Hoff, Sergei Maslov, Marcus Kink, Matthias Plachta, Frank Mauer, Danny van Den Brinken, Yannick Seidenberg, Patrick Reimer, Bjorn Krupp, Jonas Muller, Yasin Ehlig, Gerrit Fausch, Dennis Endras, Patrick Hordler, Patrick Hager, Timo Pleimeier, Felix Schütz, Marcel Goc, Dominik Kuch, Simon Auld, Leonhard Pfaderl, David Wolf, Moritz Müller, Marcel Neobels)
BRONZE—Canada (Karl Stollery, Chris Lee, Clay Grenoway, Gilbert Brute, Wojtek Wolski, Derek Roy, Chris Kelly, Rob Klimek, Reimer, Brandon Korun, Quinton Howden, Rene Bourque, Marc-Andre Gagnani, Andrew Ebbett, Mason Raymond, Eric O'Dell, Stefan Elliott, Cody Goloubef, Ben Scrivens, Kevin Poulin, Justin Peters, Matt Robinson, Maxim Lapierre, Maxim Noreau, Linden Vey, Christian Thomas)

Sunday's results

BOBSLED

Men's Four-Man

Final Ranking

1. Germany 1 (Francois Fredrich, Thorsten Margis, Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp), 3:15.85.

2. South Korea 1 (Kim Donghyun, Yun Jungho, Seo Youngwoo, Jun Junglin), 3:16.38.

3. Germany 3 (Walther Nico, Eric Franke, Kevin Kuske, Alexander Roediger), 3:16.38.

4. Switzerland 2 (Rico Peter, Thomas Walther, Simon Friedli, Michael Kunz), 3:16.62.

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7. Austria 1 (Benjamin Maier, Markus Sammer, Danut Ivan Moldovan, Kilian Walch), 3:16.90.

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20. United States 1 (Justin Olson, Carlo Valdes, Christopher Fogt, Nathan Weber), 3:18.55.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Women's 30km Mass Start Classic

1. Marit Bjergen, Norway, 1:22:17.6.

2. Krista Parmakoski, Finland, 1:24:07.1.
3. Stina Nilsson, Sweden, 1:24:16.5.
4. Ingvil Flugstad Ostberg, Norway, 1:24:18.0.
5. Charlotte Kalla, Sweden, 1:25:14.8.
6. Kerttu Niskanen, Finland, 1:25:19.2.
7. Jessica Diggins, United States, 1:25:54.8.
8. Heidi Weng, Norway, 1:26:25.5.
9. Rosie Frankowski, 1:31:11.4.
10. Caitlin Patterson, 1:32:43.6.

US medalists

GOLD (3)

Women's Alpine Skiing — Mikaela Shiffrin (glant slalom)
Women's Cross-Country — Kikkan Randall and Jessica Diggins (team sprint)
Men's Curling — Joe Polo, Tyler George, John Landsteiner, John Shuster, Matt Hamilton
Men's Freestyle Skiing — David Wise (halfpipe)
Ice Hockey — Women
Men's Snowboard — Redmond Gerard (slopestyle)
Women's Snowboard — Jamie Anderson (slopestyle)
Women's Snowboard — Chloe Kim (halfpipe)
Men's Snowboard — Shaun White (halfpipe)

SILVER (8)

Women's Alpine Skiing — Mikaela Shiffrin (combined)
Women's Bobsled — Elena Meyers Taylor and Lauren Gibbs
Men's Freestyle Skiing — Alex Ferreira (halfpipe)
Men's Freestyle Skiing — Nick Goepfer (slopestyle)
Men's Ice Hockey — Christopher Mazzder
Men's Short Track Speedskating — John-Henry Krueger (1000)
Men's Snowboard — Kyle Mack (big air)
Men's Snowboard — Jamie Anderson (big air)

BRONZE (5)

Women's Alpine Skiing — Lindsey Vonn (downhill)
Ice Dance Figure Skating — Alex Shibutani and Maia Shibutani
Team Figure Skating — Nathan Chen, Adam Rippon, Mirai Nagasu, Bradie Tennell, Chris Kriener, Alexa Scimeca-Kriener, Alex Shibutani, Maia Shibutani
Women's Freestyle Skiing — Brita Sigourney (halfpipe)
Women's Snowboard — Arielle Gold (halfpipe)
Women's Speedskating — Mia Manganello, Heather Bergsma, Brittany Bowe, Carlijn Schoutens (team pursuit)

Close: Ceremony 'handed off' Winter Games to 2022 host Beijing

FROM BACK PAGE

It was all an extraordinary bookend to an extraordinary Olympics that featured athletic excellence, surprises and unexpected lurches forward toward a new detente on the Korean Peninsula. Thrilled athletes marched into the arena around the world's flags, relaxed after showing their athletic best to themselves and to the world.

As part of the ceremony, the Winter Games were "handed off" to Beijing, which will host them in 2022 after staging the 2008 Summer Olympics.

Bach called Pyeongchang the "Games of new horizons." The Games started with a last-minute flurry of agreements to bring North Koreans to South Korea to compete under one combined Korean banner.

What followed was a strong dose of athletic diplomacy: two weeks of global exposure for the Korean team, particularly the women's hockey squad, which trained for weeks with North and South side by side getting along, taking selfies and learning about each other.

That wasn't all when it came to these odd Games. Let's not forget Russia — or, we should say, "Olympic Athletes from Russia," the shame-laced moniker they inherited after a doping brouhaha from the 2014 Sochi Games doomed them to a non-flag-carrying Pyeongchang Games.

Two more Russian athletes tested positive. Pyeongchang in the past two weeks. So on Sunday morning, the IOC refused to reinstate the team in time for the closing but left the door open for near-term redemption from what one exasperated committee member called "this entire Russia drama."

Away from the politics, hu-

Did you know

Four of eight Olympics between 2008 and 2022 will have taken place on the Asian continent. Not bad for a region that hosted only four games in the 112 years of modern Olympic history before that — Tokyo in 1964, Sapporo in 1972, Seoul in 1988 and Nagano in 1998.

SOURCE: Associated Press

manity's most extraordinary feats of winter athletic prowess unfolded, revealing the expected triumphs but also stars most unlikely — from favorites like Mikaela Shiffrin, Shaun White and Lindsey Vonn to sudden surprise legends like Czech skier-snowboarder Ester Ledecka and the medal-grabbing "Garlic Girls," South Korea's hometown curling favorites.

Other Olympic trailblazers: Chloe Kim, American snowboarder extraordinaire. The U.S. women's hockey team and men's curlers, both of which claimed gold. And the Russian hockey team, with its nail-biting, overtime victory against Germany.

What's next for the Games? Tokyo in Summer 2020, then Beijing — Summer host in 2008 — staging an encore, this time for a Winter Games.



KIRSTY WIGLESWORTH/AP

A performer participates in the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on Sunday.

WINTER OLYMPICS



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Driver Francesco Friedrich, Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp and Thorsten Margis of Germany celebrate their gold medal finish during the four-man bobsled competition final on Sunday in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Friedrich also shared gold in the two-man event.

Germans sweep bobsled

Friedrich adds four-man gold to two-man win; US ninth

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea — Shut out in Sochi, the German bobsled program swept every other nation away in Pyeongchang.

Francesco Friedrich drove to the four-man bobsledding gold medal Sunday, capping an absolutely dominant showing by the Germans on the sliding track at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

Friedrich and his team of Candy Bauer, Martin Grothkopp and Thorsten Margis is no doubt, finishing their four runs in 3 minutes, 15.85 seconds to win by more than a half-second. The Korean sled driven by Won Yunjong and the German sled driven by Nico Walther shared the silver, the second sliding medal tie in these Games after they finished in 3:16.38.

The Germans came to Pyeongchang set to prove that what happened in Sochi was merely an aberration, and delivered. The Sochi Games were the first in 50 years where Germany didn't win a single medal in bobsledding, and what they did in Pyeongchang more than made up for that series of disappointments from 2014.

"It was so frustrating in Sochi," Friedrich said. "Winning a medal was our big target and making sure we didn't make the same mistakes. We did it."

Codie Bascue and his team of Evan Weinstock, Steve Langton and Sam McGuffie led the U.S. with a ninth-place finish.

Friedrich has a 21-race winless drought in four-man World Cup starts, but when the stakes are highest he seems to find a way. He has five gold medals from two- and four-man races at the world championships, drove to the world four-man title last season, and added this Olympic gold to the one in two-man that he shared with Canada's Justin Kripps.

"Once you get ahead, it's easier to stay ahead," said U.S. pilot Justin Olsen, who finished 20th. "Look at what Friedrich did. He got the lead in the first heat and he kept on going. This is not like the

speedskating mass start where you get a lap ahead and get chased down. You get a lap ahead here, you stay a lap ahead."

Friedrich becomes the fifth German pilot to sweep two-man and four-man golds in the same Olympics, joining Andreas Ostler in 1952, Meinhard Nehmer in 1976, Wolfgang Hoppe in 1984 and Andre Lange in 2006.

And push athlete Kevin Kuske, who was in his last race, won his sixth medal in five Olympic appearances. He's now the fourth bobsledder with six Olympic medals, after helping Walther win silver.

"He has four Olympic gold medals and he decided after the disappointment of Sochi that he would do four more years," Walther said. "We wanted to win a medal for him."

Olympic medals are the norm for the Germans.

That's not the case for the Koreans — who went wild when Udelivered his nation its first bobsled medal.

"I couldn't believe it," Won said. "It was only in my imagination. I was so happy with the results. We did a lot of preparations and tests over the season, and the preparation was very thorough. That led to good results in the end."

Won and Walther celebrated with each other afterward as well.

"Normally I don't like to share anything but the Koreans were too good," Walther said. "They did four great runs and it's nice to share. They are so strong. It's really OK to share this time."

In Pyeongchang, not only did Germany win gold in all three bobsled events — matching its feat from Turin 2006 — but also became the first country to win six sliding gold medals at a single Olympics. The rest of the bobsled, skeleton and luge world won four golds in Pyeongchang combined; Canada, Austria, South Korea and Britain all got one.

Germany won 11 medals at the Alpensia Sliding Center; Canada won the second-most, with four.

Russia gets past Germany for gold in OT thriller

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

GANGNEUNG, South Korea — The Olympic anthem was merely background noise, the doping scandal the farthest thing from their minds.

As the white flag with the five Olympic rings rose toward the rafters Sunday following the gold medal game in men's hockey, the champion Russians in their non-descript red-and-white uniforms joined their fans cloaked in red, white and blue and belted out the "State Anthem of the Russian Federation," drowning out the recorded song that was required as part of International Olympic Committee sanctions.

This Olympic title meant so much more to the Russians, no matter that the tournament was missing NHL players and the "Olympic Athletes from Russia" were all here only after months of scandal.

Joyous players tossed coach Oleg Zharkov in the air at center ice as fans let out the same "ROSS-I-YA" chants that filled the arena in Sochi four years ago, where home ice meant nothing as the Russians lost in the quarterfinals. There was no such disappointment this time as the Russians triumphed in the tournament they were favored

to win, capturing gold with a 4-3 overtime victory over Germany after Kirill Kaprizov's power-play goal capped a classic final and gave the nation a jubilant moment following weeks of disappointment.

"We understood the whole thing from the start so we were calm about it," coach Oleg Zharkov said. "Russia is in our hearts."

The win came only a few hours after the IOC decided against allowing the Russians to march under their flag in the closing ceremony Sunday night after a curlier and a bobsledder had positive drug tests during the Games.

It didn't seem to matter to the Russian players that they couldn't wear the Russian Coat of Arms on their chests or that they won their first hockey gold medal since 1992 under the same circumstances as 26 years ago: playing under a neutral flag with the NHL opting to stay home after participating in the past five Olympics.

"The medal is the same with or without the NHL," said defenseman Slava Voynov, who scored the opening goal with 0.5 seconds left in the first period. "Maybe the tournament was a little different, but the emotions and happiness are the same."

Winning this gold medal at 39, fifth Olympics meant more to 39-year-old captain Pavel Datsyuk

than the two times he lifted the Stanley Cup.

"When you play for your country and I win this medal, this special time it's more important," Datsyuk said. "I have accomplished my dream. Now I have no dream."

The dream Russians couldn't reach with NHL stars finally happened with Kaprizov scoring the winner on the power play 9:40 into overtime as Patrick Reimer sat in the penalty box for a high-sticking infraction.

A silver medal gave Germany its best finish at the Olympics after capturing bronze in 1932 and 1976.

"We all thought we would be sitting at home watching that final on the couch at home, but here we are," Germany coach Marco Sturm said. "The boys are going to bring silver home, and they should be very proud."

Beating Germany, which stunned eventual bronze-medalist Canada to reach the final, gave the Russians their first gold medal in hockey since 1992 in Albertville when they competed as the Community of Independent States.

Stocked with former NHL players — Datsyuk, Voynov, Ilya Kovalchuk, Mikhail Grigorenko and Nikita Nesterov — the Russians were by far the most talented team



JAC C. HONG/AP

Olympic athletes from Russia celebrate after winning the men's gold medal hockey game against Germany, 4-3, in overtime on Sunday.

in the tournament. U.S. coach Tony Granato said they may be as good as 20 of the 31 NHL teams.

Odds makers made the Russians the favorite, and they showed it after an opening loss to Slovakia, getting better as the tournament went on, which was a complete reversal from Sochi.

"It means a lot," said Kovalchuk, who was voted tournament MVP. "This was my dream from when I was 5 years old when I started to play."

The skill primarily from the Continental Hockey League was on full display with the gold medal at stake — and the Russians needed it against disciplined, op-

portunistic Germany, which had all of its players from leagues in its homeland.

Voynov, at the Olympics because he was banned from the NHL in 2015 for a domestic abuse conviction, scored what could've been a back-breaking goal with 0.5 seconds left in the first period, but Germany got a good bounce on a fluky tying goal by Felix Schultz midway through the second. That set the stage for a wild third period.

"With the support of our fans and loved ones, a big thank you," Datsyuk said. "It is not an easy time for us and it means a lot to us."

SPORTS



Business as usual
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WINTER OLYMPICS



PHOTOS BY JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT, ABOVE, AND NATACHA PISARENKO, RIGHT/AP

Above: The United States' Lindsey Vonn is carried on the shoulders of teammate Nick Baumgartner into the stadium during the closing ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on Sunday. Right: Ivanka Trump, daughter of U.S. President Donald Trump, applauds during the closing ceremony on Sunday. To her right is Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee.

Fond farewell?

Politics-heavy Games close with potential path to peace

By TED ANTHONY
Associated Press

PYEONGCHANG, South Korea

The overtly political 2018 Winter Olympics closed Sunday night very much as they began, with humanity's finest athletes marching exuberantly across the world stage as three nations with decades of war and suspicion among them shared a VIP box — and a potential path away from conflict.

Senior North Korean official Kim Yong Chol, South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. presidential adviser and first daughter Ivanka Trump sat in two rows of seats behind the Olympic rings, meant to represent a competition of

peace and international unity. In close proximity — though with no apparent communication between Trump and Kim — they watched a spirited, elaborate show that concluded the Pyeongchang Games.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, just before declaring the Games closed, addressed the two Koreas' cooperation at the closing ceremony, saying, "The Olympic Games are an homage to the past and an act of faith for the future."

"With your joint march you have shared your faith in a peaceful future with all of us," Bach said. "You have shown our sport brings people together in our very fragile world. You have shown how sport builds bridges."

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